

Hafa Adai!

SNILD members elect Sen. Sablan as chairman. **PAGE 3**  
Saipan Vegas joins LDTF tree planting initiative. **PAGE 6**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

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## Mariana Lighthouse: Bridging the past and present



By **BEA CABRERA**  
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CORRESPONDENT

After a year of extensive repair work,

the abandoned Old Japanese Lighthouse on Navy Hill has a new lease on life, with Bibong Corp. transforming this iconic structure that once helped

ships navigate into the Saipan harbor into a modern-day oasis that boasts an expansive view of Garapan. It will not only be a tourist site by itself but a cof-

fee shop and a restaurant will soon be located there.

It was not until Korean businessman

**See MARIANA on Page 4**

▲ Mariana Lighthouse will open to the public within the first quarter of 2021

BEA CABRERA

# IPI chair claims ignorance

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

**I**mperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC board chair Cui Li Jie, through her lawyer, claims she did not fully understand the specifics of the consent judgment that IPI violated or her role as company chairperson.



Li Jie

During a court hearing last week,

Cui's personal lawyer, Juan Lizama, argued that Cui did not know her responsibility as chairperson and did not understand the specifics of the consent judgment.

"This isn't the place she grew up. She's never experienced how businesses are run here in the United States. If

**See IPI on Page 4**

## NMC demolitions now complete

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The demolition of 14 Northern Marianas College buildings that were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu is now complete.

Saipan Tribune learned that the demolitions were completed on Jan. 11, 2021. These

buildings include A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, Q, R, and S.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said this task was one of the most extensive demolition projects in the CNMI. With that done, NMC will now move forward with

**See NMC on Page 4**

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 27, 2021

| GUAM                                | OLD   | NEW | TOTAL   |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|---------|
| Positive                            | 7,566 | 2   | 7,568   |
| Recovered                           | 7,335 | 16  | 7,351   |
| Active                              | 86    | 2   | 88      |
| Deaths                              | 129   | 0   | 129     |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested |       |     | 113,267 |

| SAIPAN                                 | OLD | NEW | TOTAL   |
|--|-----|-----|---------|
| Positive                               | 132 | 0   | 132     |
| Traced via Travel Screening            | 106 | 0   | 106     |
| Traced via Community Screening         | 26  | 0   | 26      |
| Deaths                                 | 2   | 0   | 2       |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested    |     |     | 26,131* |
| Days since last community transmission |     |     | 161     |

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## Climate change brings stronger storms, coral loss, health risks

**HONOLULU**—Hotter weather, stronger typhoons, coral reef death, and human health risks are among the major challenges detailed in a new report on climate change in the CNMI. Threat-

ened resources include high-value coastal infrastructure and the millions of dollars that ocean ecosystems add to the CNMI economy annually, according to the report by the Pacific Islands Regional Cli-

mate Assessment, a consortium of several government, nonprofit organizations, and research entities.

The report, called "Climate Change in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mari-

ana Islands: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors" is one in a series of new PIRCA reports. Authors from the CNMI Office of Planning and Development, the

**See CLIMATE on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Kensington Hotel Saipan and Coral Ocean Point Golf Course are teaming up.

**PAGE 11**



### NATION

Nearly all Senate Republicans voted in favor to dismiss Donald Trump's second impeachment trial.

**PAGE 12**



### WORLD

More than 100,000 people have died in the United Kingdom after contracting the coronavirus.

**PAGE 13**



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## Local

## CUC preps to demolish old San Vicente water tank

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has started preparations to demolish the corroded water tank behind the San Vicente Church and replace it with a pre-stressed concrete tank,

similar to the one at the Northern Marianas College.

In a recent interview with William Gilmore, CUC deputy executive director, he said the new concrete water tank will have a durability of 100 years, whereas the metal tank has a durability of only 25

years. It will also get bigger, from one capable of holding .5 million gallons of water to one with a .75-million-gallon capacity.

CUC stated in a press release that this project will provide a resilient and reliable water distribution system that also has lower operation and maintenance costs.

Gilmore stated that the transition from metal to concrete will be better in the long run since the island suffers from many earthquakes. "[Because we have] earthquakes just about every day here, concrete handles that shifting a

## Litulumar lands on dean's list at BSU

Alexander Litulumar of Saipan has been named to the Boise State University dean's list with high honors for the fall 2020 semester.

To meet eligibility require-

ments for the dean's list high honors, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.75 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester. (PR)



The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s steel tank behind the San Vicente Church is being prepared for demolition. The 0.5-million-gallon water tank will be replaced with a new 0.75-million-gallon concrete pre-stressed water tank. Right now, CUC's contractors, GPPC Inc., is building the polyethylene fence that will protect nearby buildings from dust and debris once the demolition starts. The water tank demolition will occur either on Monday or Tuesday next week.

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lot better. Plus you don't have any corrosion and buildup on your materials, so, you're always much more efficient," said Gilmore.

GPPC Inc. was awarded the construction contract for the project as its primary contractor. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The first phase of construction began last December 2020, along with the installation of the temporary 70,000-gallon tank, piping, and connections.


For the moment, a temporary tank will temporarily be used until the project is completed in September 2021.

According to Gilmore, the temporary tank will first be disinfected and tested for pathogens (bacteria/virus that can cause disease) and, once it is completed and passes bacteriological testing, the temporary water storage tank will then be integrated into the system this Friday, Jan. 29.


Because CUC will do a transition for the pipeline, they will have to shut off the water

for the villages of San Vicente, Papago (along Isa Drive), Laulau, Tuteuram, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan, and Naftan. Gilmore suggests that residents should collect as much water as they can.

After CUC is done with the transfer, Gilmore said, CUC will have to let the new water tank settle so that the valves could find a balance and won't "blow up the system." Once everything is done, Gilmore said that there will be ongoing monitoring of the system.



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Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Friday, February 5th, 2021, 2:00PM at the BECQ 3rd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/bne-owge-dmu>) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of December 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
  - 1) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2020-X-082 Project: TINIAN DIAMOND CASINO & SUITE PROJECT  
Applicant: Bridge Investment Group, LLC  
Bridge Investment Group, LLC (BIG) is proposing to construct the Tinian Diamond Suite building on Lot No. 080 T 18, a Ferry Ticketing Center and an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) on Lot No. 080 T 06. BIG will be converting the former ferry terminal building into the Tinian Diamond Casino and is situated on Lot No. 016 T 01. The projects are located at the Tinian Harbor in San Jose, Tinian.
    - a. Agencies' Discussion
    - b. Agencies' Determination
- III. OTHER MATTERS
- IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO  
Director, DCRM

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## SNILD members elect Sen. Sablan as chairman

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Members of the 22nd Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation elected yesterday by acclamation Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) as chairman, while Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) was elected vice chairman and Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) was elected floor leader.

Blanco won over Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) on a 12-9 vote. Babauta won 12-9 over Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who served as SNILD chairman in his last three terms as representative

» **Blanco elected vice chairman, Babauta is floor leader**

of Precinct 2 in the 19th, 20th, and 21st Legislature.

It was Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) who nominated Sen. Vinnie Sablan as chairman. Since there were no other nominees, Yumul moved for a vote by acclamation. No one objected.

All members were present during the election of Sen. Sablan, except for Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), who had a doctor's appointment at the time. Sen. Sablan then called for a recess to wait for Staffler during the election of the vice chairman and floor leader. The session resumed after Staffler arrived.

For the position of vice chairman, Rep. Jonathan Blas T. Attao (R-Saipan) nominated Blanco, while Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) nominated Sen. Deleon Guerrero.

For the position of floor leader, Rep. Christina-Marie Sablan (D-Saipan) nominated Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), while Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) nominated Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Yumul voted for Blanco as vice chair and Babauta as floor leader.

Sen. Sablan appointed Frances Jones Kaipat as delegation clerk.

In an interview after the session, Sen. Sablan said the SNILD wants to make sure that they have assistance programs intact for the Saipan and the Northern Islands senatorial district.

"I want to make sure and I will ensure that...everyone agrees that our good mayors from our senatorial district are taken care of and their programs," he said.

The senator said there's a lot of work ahead of them as the CNMI is in "unchartered territory" because of this pandemic.

He, however, expressed confidence that they can work together and find solutions for the people.

Sen. Sablan underscored the importance of taking care of all the program for the people under the mayor's offices of

Saipan and the Northern Islands. "We will also reach out as much and assist different organizations and non-profit

organizations as well as they play an important role in society to offer assistance to our people," he said.

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**SEDONA LX**  
29,307 MILES • STK: 6HS764

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**\$13,995**



KBB: \$19,154

2016 TOYOTA  
**PRIUS C**  
48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A

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KBB: \$16,585

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**CX-3 GT**  
40,213 MILES • STK: 19D204A

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KBB: \$19,882

2018 MAZDA  
**MAZDA3 SPORT**  
8,730 MILES • STK: 8HS878

SALE PRICE  
**\$14,995**



KBB: \$19,449

2018 MAZDA  
**MAZDA3 SPORT**  
7,910 MILES • STK: 8HS875

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KBB: \$19,496

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**CX-3 GT AWD**  
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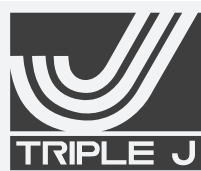
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# DOL yet to get clarification from USDOL on PUA eligibility

The CNMI Department of Labor has yet to receive confirmation from

the U.S. Department of Labor on whether the CNMI is exempted from

the new eligibility guidelines that includes disqualifying those working

## MARIANA

From Page 1

Bong Heung Lee, CEO of Bibong Corp., visited the site in 2018 that got this landmark's revival on track. The sight of the vast turquoise ocean, the white sand coast of Garapan, and the historical lighthouse behind him gave Lee a glimpse of a possible future for the building.

The lighthouse was built in 1934 when Saipan was still under Japanese administration. It stopped operating in 1944 when it sustained severe damage from bombs during the Battle of Saipan. It was turned into a restaurant in 1990 but closed years later due to economic troubles.

"We went to the Department of Public Lands and, after several meetings, we were given the lease and opportunity to rebuild the lighthouse," Lee said.

The renamed Mariana Lighthouse is, in fact, Bibong Corp.'s first venture outside of South Korea, where it is in the business of construction and education.

"We started with construction exactly a year ago, January 2020, and went on even during the pandemic. Our plan was to finish within six months and start operations on the seventh month but, due to the pandemic, everything got delayed," said Bibong Corp. financial controller John Park.

"We encountered major challenges but our mindset was always, 'How can we make things better?' We tried to keep everything as it is. There was a lot of improvements but, to preserve the historical value of the structure,

there were some parts that we did not touch. ... As for the name, we thought of calling it Saipan Lighthouse... but we [eventually] chose Mariana Lighthouse because the range is wider and inclusive of all of the islands of the CNMI," Park added.

The walls that were once full of graffiti are now painted white, the floors are shiny after being buffed, the open windows now have glass panes and, if you have been to the lighthouse many times before the renovation, you might be amazed at what it has become. "We reinforced the walls and foundation of this structure so it will be safe for occupation. We finished renovation in November 2020 and all that we are doing now is trying to 'touch up' a bit as we plan to open it within the first quarter," Park said.

The company's vision is to make Mariana Lighthouse a signature place for Saipan, especially for the tourists "but we also kept in mind that this structure has a deep history with the locals. We are now creating a place where locals can visit and relax and this is the same for the tourists when they come. We are trying to find the right balance between catering to both markets," Park said.

Inside the Mariana Lighthouse, a coffee shop and gift shop on the first floor will soon open, while a bar and restaurant grill will be located outside.

"... We are hoping to start all of them at the same time... and we plan to hire local workers. ... Right now, we are waiting for the shipment of our kitchen setup and coffee shop counters. After that, we will be work-

ing on our permits. ... Since the building has two floors that will be open to the public, customers can stay at their tables or freely walk around inside or out to enjoy the sights and views within the vicinity while enjoying their coffee," he said.

"We are also working on a walk-through mini-museum and we are in coordination with the Historic Preservation Office to create something that will tell and remind people about its rich history. ... On the second floor, which has a big view deck, we plan to build space where people can hang 'love locks' that they can buy from the gift shop. They can write their hopes and wishes on the love locks. ... The third floor, or top of the lighthouse, will be closed to the public for safety reasons," he added.

The renovation of the Mariana Lighthouse aims to tell a story of the past while enjoying what is available in the present and, according to Park, this is their company's first step in doing business on Saipan. "We really love Saipan and when everything gets settled, we will try to move further and venture into other businesses. There are some areas on Saipan that we believe we can make a better place but that is still far into the future. Right now, the focus is the Mariana Lighthouse," he said.

"I have been to other places like the U.S. mainland, Canada but, to me, Saipan is more beautiful because of its relaxing vibe and the locals are friendly compared to other places. The people of Saipan create the atmosphere of this place, which makes this island simply amazing," he added.

properly balances economic development and environmental protection."

### Key messages

The report lays out the changes the CNMI is already experiencing, as well as what lies ahead. The key messages for decision-makers include:

■ **Temperatures have risen, and hotter days and nights affect human health.** Heat waves can exacerbate a range of pre-existing health issues, and hot weather poses a particular threat to children and elderly people.

■ **Stronger tropical storms and typhoons** are expected globally and around the Mariana Islands. More intense tropical cyclones mean a greater potential for loss of life, damage, and public health issues from these storms.

■ **Sea level rise threatens infrastructure, including housing, businesses, and transportation, as well as ecosystems and cultural sites.** More frequent and intense coastal flooding and erosion are anticipated as sea level rise accelerates.

■ **Oceans are warming, causing coral bleaching that is already widespread and severe.** Extensive coral loss is possible within the next few decades if current trends in rising ocean temperatures continue. Coral reefs inject tens of millions of dollars annually into the local economy.

"Climate change is adding new layers of complexity to the economic

and environmental challenges we routinely face in the CNMI," said Robbie Greene, Coral and Coastal Management liaison with Lynker Tech at NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. "Resources such as this report provide clear and concise messaging about the impacts of climate change, and the considerations that CNMI decision makers and resource managers will need to account for in order to adapt in the coming years. Whether we're talking about something as broad as economic recovery, or simply putting food on the table, a shifting climate warrants a road map for the Commonwealth's future, and this report is a great start."

### About

The collective efforts of the technical contributors, coordinating authors, and PIRCA Advisory Committee made the CNMI PIRCA report possible. The report builds upon the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment, offering a closer look at climate change impacts in the CNMI and providing information for a wide range of sectors.

The PIRCA is funded and supported by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's RISA Program (through the Pacific RISA), the East-West Center's Research Program, the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center, and the US Global Change Research Program. ([reliefweb.int](http://reliefweb.int))

on reduced hours from receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

In a WhatsApp response from DOL Secretary Vicky Benavente, she said CNMI DOL has yet to hold a conference with USDOL and they are still awaiting confirmation on the eligibility requirements.

In a recent webinar conducted by USDOL, CNMI DOL learned that individuals who are not fully unemployed as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA. In other words, claimants who work on reduced hours as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA.

According to USDOL, an individual who is working reduced hours while his or her place of employment continues to operate does not satisfy the conditions to self-certify as evidence of the eligibility shift.

CNMI DOL said in a press release that the most prominent change to the PUA program, in relation to eligibility conditions, is the requirement for

all claimants to provide documentation substantiating employment or self-employment, or the planned commencement of employment or self-employment.

Individuals filing a new PUA application on or after Jan. 31, 2021, regardless of whether the claim is backdated, are required to provide documentation within 21 days of the application or the date the individual is directed to submit the documentation by CNMI DOL.

Individuals who applied for PUA before Jan. 31, 2021, and receive a payment of PUA on or after Dec. 27, 2020 (regardless of which week ending date is being paid), are required to provide documentation substantiating employment or self-employment, or the planned commencement of employment or self-employment, within 90 days of the application or when directed to submit documentation by CNMI DOL. (*Kimberly A. Bautista*)

## NMC

From Page 1

the facilities master plan, which will establish the framework for the current and future growth and development of capital improvement projects on campus, including classrooms and other learning spaces, offices, laboratories, and open spaces.

Although the demolition project resulted in a significant amount of construction debris, efforts were made to divert material to the Marpi Landfill. In all, a total of 43.32 tons of demolition debris went to the landfill, 37 dump truck loads went to recycling centers, and 116 dump truck loads of demolished concrete material went to some private properties.

"We are thankful to the U.S. Department of Education, the governor, the NMC Board of Regents, the guidance of regulatory agencies, and others for their support and help with our recovery activities," said Eliptico.

He also acknowledged the work

of NMC team members. "They have been working diligently to move this project forward despite the challenges of the pandemic."

The construction barricades that were in front of the demolition site have been donated to the Public School System for temporary walkway roofing.

The NMC demolition was funded by the U.S. Department of Education through an emergency assistance grant.

In a previous interview with the construction company, ITS Corp, its project manager, Danny Vatalla, said the demolition started last Jan. 11 and they had until Jan. 11, 2021, to complete it.

In previous interviews, Eliptico said the demolition of the buildings is primarily for safety purposes but will also make way for new buildings to be built. The proposed new buildings will include design and construction elements that will allow them to withstand natural disasters like Super Typhoon Yutu.

## IPI

From Page 1

it is that difficult for [former CEO] Donald Browne to stand before the system, you can imagine how difficult it must be for someone like Cui," Lizama said.

Lizama argued that it's one thing to know that there's a consent judgment but it's another to have the power to ensure that it is not violated.

"I think it's one thing to know that there was a judgment. But one thing that was clear here, she's just the chair lady, she doesn't have control over the company. She's not the sole owner, they obviously made her the chair lady but that happens all the time. I think the one thing she doesn't understand is that as chair, you need to take some responsibility. And I think she's beginning to realize that. She's just the chair, she's not in charge of the operations. Poor lady, she doesn't even speak English," he said.

However, the U.S. Department of Labor's senior attorney, Charles Song, insists that it's only right to find Cui in contempt because not only did she sign the consent judgment on behalf of both IPI and its parent com-

pany, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Co. but, according to a previous statement from Browne, Cui was also the one who told Browne to rescind a prior stop-work order.

"We request to extend the contempt finding against [Cui] individually because she signed the consent judgment on behalf of both IPI and the holding company. For her attorney to represent that she doesn't know what's going on with IPI CNMI just doesn't strike us as accurate. Mr. Browne's declaration clearly states that she did know what was going on, and she was the one that ordered him to rescind the stop-work order," he said.

Currently, IPI, IPIH, and Cui were found in contempt for violating a consent judgment that they signed back in April 2019 stating that they would pay back wages owed former employees that date back 2016 and 2017 worth over \$2 million.

In addition, a contempt order was also issued against IPI, IPIH, and Cui for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act when they continued to let their employees work without pay throughout 2020 and let their employees live in company-owned housing that had no power or water.

## CLIMATE

From Page 1

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management, and the East-West Center—along with 50 technical contributors from local governments, NGOs, researchers, and community groups—collaboratively developed the CNMI PIRCA report.

"Since 2019, many of our government agencies under the Planning and Development Advisory Council have supported data collection and analysis efforts led by the East-West Center and other federal and local stakeholders to assess how climate change is impacting the Marianas," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "This resulting report provides updated data on impacts to support climate-wise planning and development. The CNMI relies on a clean and healthy environment for our livelihoods and way of life, and I commend the collaborative efforts of our agencies to help us support sustainable development goals and enable us to adapt to our changing climate to protect our infrastructure, communities, and ecosystems. I thank the Office of Planning and Development for comprehensively mainstreaming considerations of smarter, safer growth through this important work. Together, with data-driven policy guidance, we will plan and achieve resilient growth that





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# Saipan Vegas joins LDTF tree planting initiative

Saipan Vegas Resort has become the first business to support the "Plant 500" initiative of the Lady Diane Torres Foundation, which aims to plant 500 trees throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Last Tuesday, Saipan Vegas Resort consultant Gus Noble joined first lady Diann Torres and other stakeholders to plant a total of 50 trees on Oleai Elementary School grounds, helped in part by OES teachers and its fifth-grade students.

"I met with our environment ambassadors, Miss Mar-

ianas [Sharon Sasamoto] and Miss Earth [Maria Lael Terlaje], in November and asked if I could challenge them to get our community on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to plant 500 trees. If yes, my foundation will donate a dollar for every tree that is planted that will go to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance," Torres said.

"When Saipan Vegas Resort heard about this initiative, they called us and said that they were going to join and help us meet [the goal] of planting 500 trees. On top of that, Saipan

Vegas will also donate whatever amount we collate and donate to MINA. If we meet the 500 trees [target] and donate \$500, Saipan Vegas will match the amount that we will donate to MINA," she added.

Noble said that Saipan Vegas Resort has always been supportive of community initiatives, so when they heard about the tree planting initiative, they immediately wanted to be a part of it. "We can relate to this cause because...[our] Saipan Country Golf Course...was hit pretty

hard by the last two super typhoons. ...We planted trees to rehabilitate the golf course and thought maybe we could do more, like help our local schools. ...This collaboration is a great example of business, nonprofit organizations, and government through CNMI Forestry coming together to help the island."

Oleai Elementary School principal Jasylene Perico said this cause means a lot to the teachers and students of the school. "We lost so many trees since Soudelor and Yutu like



Saipan Vegas Resort consultant Gus Noble, left, and first lady Diann Torres are working together to raise funds to donate to Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance through the "Plant 500" project.


BEA CABRERA

huge big trees that provided shade for our students ... this is a great opportunity for the students to learn not only how to plant but also the importance taking care of their environment," she said.


According to Torres, 200 trees have already been planted and the goal to plant 500 by

Feb. 14 is not farfetched. "Everybody is welcome to participate in this cause. It doesn't have to be at your school, it can be done at your home, a friend's house etc.," she said.

For more information, click on the Lady Diann Torres Foundation on Facebook. *(Bea Cabrera)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: January 28, 2021**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the proposed action to require the use of electronic logbooks for fishing vessels utilizing Hawaii and American Samoa (vessel classes C and D) permits. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NMFS-CZM-MP-Electronic-Logbooks-1.22.2021.pdf>.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at [fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on January 28, 2021 and ending on February 12, 2021. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Saipan

### NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on January 28th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes from December 17, 2020
- II. Public Comment (s)**
- III. Committee Reports**
  - a. Committee on Awards
  - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
  - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
  - d. Committee on Program and Development
  - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- IV. Administrator's Report**
- V. Chairman's Report**
- VI. Old Business**
  1. Requirement to start first 2 years within Saipan based institutions
  2. Service obligation of active military personnel/reservist
- VII. New Business**
  1. Spring 2021 application status
  2. FY 2021 funding status
  3. Board vacancy/reappointment
  4. Election of officers (motion/waive)
- VIII. Executive Session**
- IX. Miscellaneous Matters**
- X. Next Meeting**
- XI. Adjournment**

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta, Chairman,  
Board of SHEFA Directors

**Matthew T. Gregory, Esq., F0205**  
Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC  
Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 603  
PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. No. (670) 234-9005/6 | Fax No. (670) 235-9007  
Email Address: [matt@gregoryfirm.com](mailto:matt@gregoryfirm.com)

*Attorney for Pacific Eco Laundry*

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Pacific Eco Laundry, Inc.</b><br/><b>Plaintiffs,</b><br/><b>v.</b><br/><b>Tae Ho Kim</b><br/><b>Defendant</b></p> | <p><b>CIVIL CASE</b><br/><b>NO. 0110A</b><br/><b>SUMMONS</b></p> |
|---|--|

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:**  
**TAE HO KIM**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to Verified Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within (21) days after service of this Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is: Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza, PMB 419, Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the above-named Court Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default will be taken against you for the relief requested in the attached Verified Complaint.

By order of this Court.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020  
By: /s/ Clerk of Court  
Commonwealth Superior Court



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



### INVITATION TO BID ITB21-CHCC/THC-001

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

### "TINIAN HEALTH CENTER NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA</b><br/><b>CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b></p> | <p><b>/S/ CORAZON P. ADA</b><br/><b>DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT &amp; SUPPLY</b></p> |
|--|--|



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

**Opening date: January 08, 2021      Closing date: January 29, 2021**

**Positions:** (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com](mailto:lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com) or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-013

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 17, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

### "Managaha Pier Rehabilitation Project, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 2, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **DPL Conference Room Joeten Dandan, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 11, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>/S/ JAMES A. ADA</b><br/><b>SECRETARY, DPW</b></p> | <p><b>/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON</b><br/><b>ACTING DIRECTOR,</b><br/><b>DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICE</b></p> |
|--|---|



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



### INVITATION TO BID RFQ NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFQ-011

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

### "Request For Qualification Statements for the Project Management (Construction Management Services & Quality Assurance) for the Marpi Landfill Rehabilitation of Cell 2 and Construction of Cell 3"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **January 20, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 28, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

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| <p><b>/S/ JAMES A. ADA</b><br/><b>SECRETARY, DPW</b></p> | <p><b>/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON</b><br/><b>ACTING DIRECTOR,</b><br/><b>DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES</b></p> |
|--|--|



# GCA's Pajarillaga earns slot in presidential scholars program

Elijah Joshua S. Pajarillaga, a graduating senior at Grace Christian Academy, has been selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

In a statement from the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, it said that Pajarillaga is one of the 4,500 candidates who were selected out of almost 3.6 million students nationwide who are expected to graduate in 2021.

"Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character



**Pajarillaga**

and involvement in community and school activities," the statement adds.

Every year, up to 161 U.S.

Presidential Scholars are chosen from among that year's senior class, representing excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's youth.

If circumstances permit all scholars are invited to Washington, D.C. in June for the National Recognition Program, featuring various events and enrichment activities and culminating in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a White House-sponsored ceremony.

"The GCA administration, faculty, and student body congratulate Pajarillaga and is very proud of him for this accomplishment," said the school in a statement yesterday. **(PR)**

## High surf, rip current advisory until Friday

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Friday for north facing reefs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet and dangerous rip currents are present in north facing reefs until 6am Friday.

These conditions will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are being advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing north. Large breaking waves can knock you

down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. **(PR)**



UNITED STATES  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 29, 2021 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Charley's Cabaret, Saipan.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 29, 2021
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2020
- V. Reports
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
  - a. COVID-19 Pandemic Update
  - b. Emergency Preparedness Update
- VII. New Business
  - a. DD Basic Grant State Plan Development Survey
  - b. Assistive Technology Low Tech Tip
  - c. March 2021 - DD Awareness Month
  - d. Disability Awareness Campaign
- VIII. Action Items
  - a. Ratify the Approval of the Amended FY 2020 DD Basic Grant Budget
  - b. Ratify the Approval of the Amended FY 2020 Assistive Technology Grant Budget
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting – March 2021
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas  
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-021  
Re-Announcement Ref. 20-016

Opening Date: January 11, 2020  
Closing Date: Until Filled

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>POSITION TITLE:</b> | Trades Technician: Electrician                    |
| <b>DEPARTMENT:</b>     | Power Generation                                  |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>       | Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA            |
| <b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>  | \$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt |
| <b>CONTRACT:</b>       | Not Contracted                                    |
| <b>POSITION(S):</b>    | Two (2)   |

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

#### Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and Overhead crane.
- Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes, USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, and NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC/DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging System, Fire Alarm and Battery Bank.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multi-meter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester & Hydrometer.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical tools – Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiarize with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools – Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains daily reports.
- Practices SAFETY. Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Vocational Certification and other specialized certificates. Must demonstrate having had: 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Performing skilled maintenance, operations, troubleshooting and repair. Recommending or implementing solutions. Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance. Math and reading. Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports. Utilizing all electrical tools and test equipment. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to:

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Elieco D. Cabrera  
Administrator

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## AMENDMENT NO. 2 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### TINIAN DIAMOND CASINO, RESTAURANT, & SUITES BUILDINGS WITH AN ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2020-X-082

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, and Suites Building with an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) in San Jose, Tinian.

The Bridge Investment Group, LLC is proposing to construct the Tinian Diamond Suite building on Lot No. 080 T 18, an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System on Lot No. 080 T 06, and to include the Tinian Diamond Casino operations within the Tinian Ferry Terminal building on Lot No. 016 T 01. The Tinian Diamond Casino and Ferry Terminal building will include a 64-seating restaurant with a kitchen facility, VIP restaurant and gaming center, security rooms, and two (2) VIP rooms at the Mezzanine level. The project is located at the Tinian Harbor in San Jose, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:00 PM.** The venue for this hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, in San Jose, Tinian. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, & Suite Buildings, and OWTS project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Joe Biden's battle for the soul of America has begun

In his inaugural address last week, President Joe Biden rattled off six crises that the United States faces simultaneously: a deadly pandemic, a threat to our democracy, economic inequity, systemic racism, climate change and a diminished role for the U.S. in the world.

As if that weren't enough, all of these problems are exacerbated by the polarization that is warping not just our politics, but also our society and our national identity.

Some Republicans and right-leaning media outlets signaled just after the inauguration that they were going to take offense at much of what Biden does—for example, witness the complaints that Biden was being divisive by calling out systemic racism in his speech or signing executive orders reversing a number of President Donald Trump's most contentious initiatives. If that's being divisive, there can be no healing.

The new president will need to speak to the public often about our challenges, what he's trying to do about them, and why. But beyond that, he'll need to find a way to show millions of disaffected, even hostile constituents that he hears and understands them, even when he disagrees with them. Many of those Americans are suspicious of such core Democratic Party tenets as affirmative action, cultural diversity, reproductive rights and gun control, complicating Biden's task.

A good place to start would be to recognize and respond to the deep need in the American people for a sense of connection, of purpose, of meaning in their lives. Trump was as successful as he was because he spoke to those needs and provided Americans an opportunity to express their rage against a society that they believed disdained them for their faith, tastes, race or class and judged them on how much they had or made or who or what they knew.

Biden can't restore a sense of worth without expanding economic opportunity and social justice—but that alone won't address Americans' crisis of confidence, the yearning for a sense of one's value to society and of our nation's place in the world. There's no simple policy fix for that. Only through actions and words can Biden, over time, help Americans win back confidence in each other.

Ending the pandemic wouldn't magically heal our social rifts, but it would open the door to progress on multiple fronts. COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on all of us, economically, physically and psychologically. Biden has smartly sought to step up federal leadership on the virus, improve vaccine distribution, increase the supply of protective gear and provide long-overdue guidance on how to reopen schools safely. On Friday he ordered even more help, calling on federal agencies to start work on raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour for federal contractors and to increase food aid.

Tangible steps that offer support in the near term are a good way to show Americans that Washington hasn't forgotten them.

(c)2021 the Los Angeles Times



## Virtual learning is unnecessary—and no substitute for classroom instruction

By KEVIN PHAM and LINDSEY BURKE  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 has been an unrelenting feature of our daily lives and will continue to be so for at least several more months as vaccinations roll out. But there is no reason for our children to be kept out of the classroom.

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that K-12 schooling, including fully in-person classrooms and hybrid in-person/virtual classrooms, has rarely been a source of outbreak. This reaffirms the fact that in-person classroom learning is one of the safest activities, and that schools need to be reopened as soon as possible.

While some schools in different states have reopened to varying degrees, a great many more have not. A new nationally representative survey released by the journal Education Next finds that more than half—53%—of students are receiving totally remote instruction. Worse, many school administration or public health officials actively oppose reopening schools to students.

For instance, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Austin Beutner, cites COVID-19 case rates in Los Angeles for having a direct impact on the district's ability to reopen classrooms.

The problem here is that children, especially those of elementary school age, are at decreased risk of infection and of minimal risk of severe disease outcome due to COVID-19. Indeed, schools have been found consistently to account for a minority of COVID-19 transmissions based on the experiences and data from schools throughout the world. Thus, maintaining school closures can only have, at most, an indirect link to the safety of schoolchildren.

The Fairfax, Virginia, teachers union refuses to commit to having schools reopen by next fall—despite teachers in the state beginning to receive vaccinations last week. The Fairfax Education Association said schools should remain in hybrid mode until all children receive a vaccine.

Keeping schools closed to in-person instruction is an untargeted measure that punishes children for a trend on which they have little effect, thereby placing a great burden on children without much, if any, benefit. We know this because of the trends preceding the fall spike in COVID cases.

During that time, the age group with the highest incidences of

COVID-19 were those 18-24 years of age. It is possible to say that college-aged adults may have driven the fall spike because they made up the majority of cases that lead into the spike. This makes sense because these young adults are at low risk for severe disease and have the most mobility.

By contrast, the recent CDC report noted that increases in childhood cases did not precede spikes in community cases in early September. The agency found that incidences of COVID-19 in counties with in-person learning were 401.2 per 100,000, compared to counties offering solely remote learning with 418.2 per 100,000.

In other words, COVID-19 rates were essentially identical between counties with and without in-person classroom learning. The empirical evidence has shown that school lockdowns yield no benefit to society but great harm to children.

The CDC report comes on the heels of updated guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics, on the safety of schooling during the pandemic. As their guidelines note, "all policy considerations for school COVID-19 plans should start with the goal of having students physically present in school."

There were many unknowns at the start of the pandemic. But with each day, we have a better understanding of COVID, particularly how it affects children. Schools should reopen tomorrow to in-person instruction. If they don't, families should be able to take the money that would have been spent on their child to a school of choice that is.

Indeed, private schools are open and operating safely, meeting the needs of children and families. While just 24% of students who attend public school are receiving fully in-person instruction, 60% of private schools are open to in-class learning, as the Education Next survey found.

A family's ZIP code should not determine whether or not their child has access to in-person learning. States across the country should provide families with education savings accounts to enable them to select into learning environments that are open and the right fit for their children.

That's good policy anytime, but is crucial as the pandemic, and learning loss, continues.

Kevin Pham, M.D., is a visiting policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation. Lindsey M. Burke, Ph.D., is director of Heritage's Center for Education Policy and its Will Skillman Fellow in Education.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# What the CNMI gets right with COVID-19 strategy

*Editor's Note: This article was originally published in The Washington Times on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021. Republished with permission. The original article may be found at <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/jan/26/what-commonwealth-of-northern-mariana-islands-gets/>*

It's a logical next step: At some point some tourism-hungry locality will go for it and develop an ad campaign that says, "Come visit. We're as safe as can be from the coronavirus." Don't be surprised if the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands is that locality. It has a history of getting this first and getting it right.

While big American states with nearly unlimited access to federal resources such as New York and New Jersey floundered, the Northern Marianas—an American commonwealth two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines—seems to have stopped the pandemic in its tracks.

Yes, the Northern Mariana Islands have some built-in advantages—184 square miles, 54,000 people in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—that helped it keep the numbers low. But the government of the Commonwealth of the islands deserves some credit as well.

It was the first state or territory to take local action to protect its citizens. It began screening passengers who flew in to take advantage of its beaches and warm weather on Jan. 20, just 20

days after anyone in the U.S. had become aware of the virus. It set up isolation units at the international airport at Saipan to treat passengers who arrived ill.

In March, when Americans were first coming to terms with COVID-19 and its potential effects on the economy, the Northern Mariana Islands formed its own COVID task force.

When nearby Guam reported its first three cases, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands shut down its government, suspended classes at its schools and community college and started an information campaign—"Stay at Home, Stop the Spread" that promoted social distancing and restricting unnecessary travel.

When the virus arrived in the islands in early March, with two confirmed cases, the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was ready with additional PPE and other resources for medical workers. It secured federal funding in April, which it used to buy 60,000 test kits from South Korea and begin community-based testing.

Those "have-you-had-symptoms?" questionnaires and body temperature checks now ubiquitous at schools and other public places have been a part of life on the islands since last April.

Knowing earlier and more accurately who had the disease and how it was spreading enabled the Commonwealth to reopen in May and June, and the reopening was accompanied by a public information campaign to urge mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing. It leads all states and territories with 5.6% of its residents vaccinated; Washington is a distant second at 3%.

Early testing, willingness to regulate and comply with regulations when necessary but also to relax regulations as conditions dictated has helped the Northern Marianas amass one of the best records for fighting COVID-19 in the world.

It has had only two deaths from the disease, and the number of cases has been stuck at 113 since March 28, despite predictions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that the islands would suffer as many as 8,000 cases. The Centers for Disease Control gives the islands its lowest possible rating for

By **BRIAN MCNICOLL**

The Washington Times



*Brian McNicoll is former senior writer for The Heritage Foundation and former director of communications for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.*

COVID-19 danger.

The problem is the world doesn't know. Since the Obama administration forced the Northern Mariana Islands to gradually shift to the same minimum wage as the rest of the U.S. and thus destroyed the textile industry there, the economy has been based almost solely on tourism. The services sector now accounts for 95% of GDP and 88% of the workforce.

Moreover, the closings shut down the beach resort cities, such as Saipan, last March at the height of the tourist season, when a half-million visitors per year—half from South Korea, 40% from China—converge to enjoy snorkeling, golf, history, and gambling.

One hotelier said her reservations went down from 95% to 23% in less than six weeks, forcing layoffs and the closure of three of her five restaurants. The government slashed pay and hours for public sector workers and reduced public schools to four days a week.

The government is trying to get China to resume flights to the islands, has established quarantine areas on the islands and has set up bubble travel agreements with South Korea and Japan to promote a return to normalcy.

Is it too early for a tourism slogan that says essentially: "Come visit—we've done a really good job of limiting COVID exposure?" Gov. Ralph DLG Torres already says as much in his speeches. There's a lot of data to back it up. Maybe it's time to try it on a wider audience.

## Don 45 Gone/ COVID-19 Anon

### LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

“**H**opeless to ignore, helpless instruct  
For any term of time, beyond the years  
That warn us of the need for emigration”  
—from *Ultimatum*, Philip Larkin (1922-1985)

### COVID 19 Novel Coronavirus Anon

I haven't had a test or COVID 19 vaccine yet  
When it's available I'll be in line you can bet  
Today's front page: "Vaccine Frustrations Rise,  
Patience Urged Amid Shortages, Website Problems"  
Patience lost. In cyberspace my senescence gottem.  
Baroque music and back are my drugs and love  
Dismissing dust devils I soar with glissando above  
Thomas Tallis wraps around sound in his choral palace  
Jordi Savall and his viola da gamba always enthrall  
Hildegard von Bingen, 'Canticles of Ecstasy' singing  
Cecilia Bartoli, a voice to rejoice, Holy smoke! no joke  
Wendell Berry says "a day without hope" brings light  
Not much hope with these news headlines as precedent  
But soon America will inaugurate a new President.

### Don 45 Gone an Offensive Omagon

Bigly Bone Spur Coward Don what's going on?  
Where do you go now and later POTUS 45?  
No tweets? how will you remain chief omagon?  
Don't you think we are all sick of your jive?  
Are you off to Mar A Lago and other golf links?  
Will your Pele style still kick balls from the rough?  
The world knows your cheating golf game stinks.  
Of those childish temper tantrums we've had enough  
In your new dwelling will you have a dog or a cat?  
Perhaps something more exotic like a cobra snake?  
To remind you of your betrayers how about a rat?  
How about a chef to burn you an aged Trump steak?  
Hope a new White racist House brings some smiles  
You'll need loans for legal fees at upcoming trials.

## Dismantle the deportation machine

In mid-January, a new caravan of up to 7,000 Central American migrants started the difficult journey north, from Honduras through Guatemala, headed into Mexico and ultimately the United States.

"Many are fleeing poverty and violence made worse by the pandemic and two major hurricanes that pummeled the region late last year," The New York Times reported.

Over the next decade, Central America will face still stronger storms and longer droughts as climate change accelerates. This will drive more displaced people into the maw of an immigration system that has grown only crueler.

Those brave enough to take the journey will face challenges long before they reach the U.S. border, including potential abuse by U.S.-funded security forces in Mexico and Central America tasked with preventing them from ever reaching the northern border. Those who make it to the United States will face wretched conditions living in the shadows, even as they form the backbone of the U.S. economy.

If President Joe Biden wants to heal these wounds and root out the anti-immigrant sentiment stirred up by his predecessor, his administration must go beyond business as usual on immigration.

In part, Biden seems to understand this.

He's introduced a sweeping proposal for expanded refugee admissions and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. He's also issued executive orders halting the construction of Trump's border wall, instituting a 100-day moratorium on deportations and ordering the reunification of separated immigrant families.

This is great news, but there's a trade-off. As The Washington Post reports, Biden's plan "calls on the Department of Homeland Security to develop a proposal that uses technology and other similar infrastructure to implement new security measures along the border, both at and between ports of entry."

Wall or no wall, tightening border security against refugees from poverty, violence and climate change is no break from "business as usual." Advocates also worry that hard-line immigration agencies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, may refuse to comply with the deportation moratorium.

By **JOSUE DE LUNA NAVARRO**

Progressive Media Project



*Josue De Luna Navarro is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

This is why it's vital for the Biden administration to go beyond simply reforming the existing immigration system—and move instead to dismantle the deportation machine.

Let's start with ICE and Customs and Border Patrol, or CBP, whose explosive growth in recent decades has fueled the abuse of immigrant families.

According to the American Immigration Council, the budget allocated to immigration enforcement has increased by 300% since the creation of ICE in 2003. Last year, ICE and CBP got more than \$25 billion.

Much of that money ends up in the pockets of shareholders and private corporations. CBP alone spent \$26.5 billion between 2008 and 2018 on contractors like CoreCivic and GEO Group, which run for-profit detention centers that have been shown to have engaged in widespread abuse.






Dismantling this machine will mean defunding these agencies and banning corporations from profiting off the persecution of immigrants. There are so many better things we could put our money into—like health care, education and green jobs.

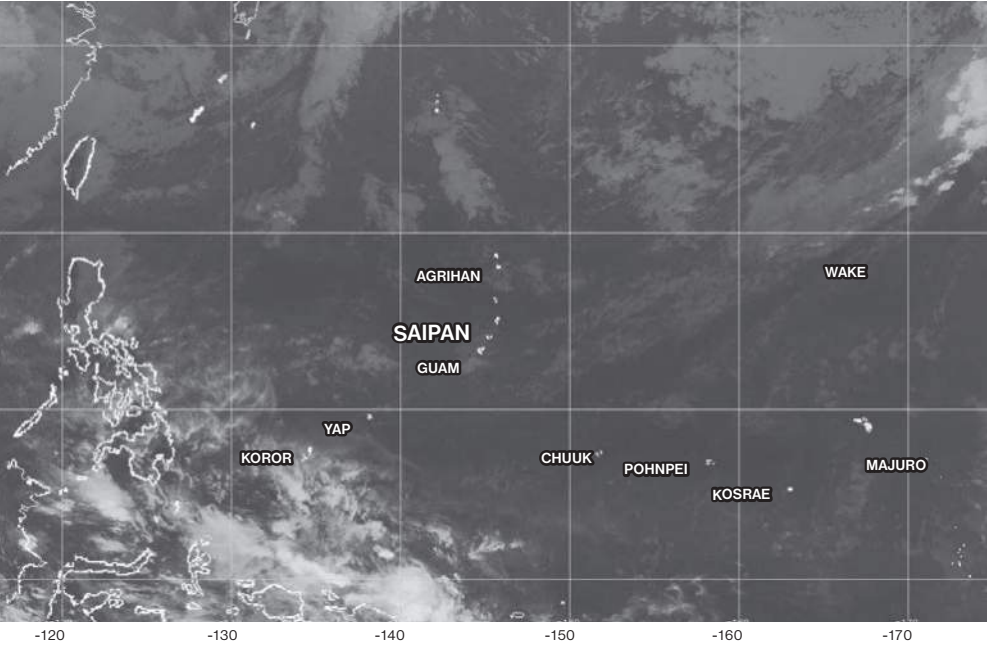
Biden says he wants to create an accessible pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented families. He should do so, and Congress should support him. But he must also start dismantling the draconian deportation machine and border militarization that have taken root in the last few decades.

If he fails, a rising tide of white supremacy and our worsening climate crisis would needlessly continue the suffering of immigrant families fleeing for their lives.



# The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN  |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY   |     | FRIDAY  |     | SATURDAY  |     | SUNDAY  |     | MONDAY   |     |
|  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |
| Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.          |     | Partly sunny with scattered light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.          |     | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.   |     | Partly sunny with scattered showers.  |     | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.   |     |
| 87°   | 77° | 86°   | 77° | 87°   | 77° | 87°   | 77° | 87°  | 77° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |



**PICTURE TIME: 6:44 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Cloudiness extends across the Mariana Islands as a shear line comes in from the north. Moderate trade winds and light scattered showers are in store for today. Ritidian buoy is reporting 7 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)*

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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| MICRONESIA    |               |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 78° |        |
| Palau         | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 78° |        |
| Yap           | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |        |
| Chuuk         | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |        |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorms | 83° / 78° |        |
| Kosrae        | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |        |
| Majuro        | Thunderstorms | 83° / 80° |        |

| DAY      | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 6:46 AM | 6:13 PM |
| Friday   | 6:46 AM | 6:13 PM |
| Saturday | 6:46 AM | 6:14 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:46 AM | 6:14 PM |
| Monday   | 6:46 AM | 6:15 PM |

| DAY      | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today    | -        | 6:10 AM | 5:43 PM  |
| Friday   | -        | 7:02 AM | 6:41 PM  |
| Saturday | -        | 7:51 AM | 7:39 PM  |
| Sunday   | -        | 8:37 AM | 8:37 PM  |
| Monday   | -        | 9:21 AM | 9:33 PM  |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |               |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland         | Showers       | 75° / 68° |        |
| Beijing          | Sunny         | 41° / 19° |        |
| Hong Kong        | Partly Cloudy | 70° / 63° |        |
| Honolulu         | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 70° |        |
| London           | Partly Cloudy | 43° / 34° |        |
| Los Angeles      | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 46° |        |
| Manila           | Cloudy        | 88° / 75° |        |
| Melbourne        | Cloudy        | 75° / 61° |        |
| Miami            | Cloudy        | 70° / 64° |        |
| New York         | Sunny         | 44° / 33° |        |
| Osaka            | Mostly Sunny  | 52° / 36° |        |
| Paris            | Showers       | 45° / 36° |        |
| Busan            | Partly Cloudy | 48° / 34° |        |
| Rome             | Showers       | 57° / 46° |        |
| Salem            | Sunny         | 53° / 28° |        |
| San Francisco    | Showers       | 50° / 43° |        |
| Seoul            | Partly Cloudy | 45° / 21° |        |
| Tokyo            | Showers       | 45° / 36° |        |
| Washington, DC   | Sunny         | 49° / 30° |        |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY |           |       | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1:26 AM                    | Low Tide  | -0.53 |      |
| 8:40 AM                    | High Tide | 1.68  |      |
| 1:53 PM                    | Low Tide  | 1.07  |      |
| 6:41 PM                    | High Tide | 1.72  |      |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

| DEPARTURES          |        |        |            | ARRIVALS            |         |          |               |
|---------------------|--------|--------|------------|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)   |        |        |            | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN   |         |          |               |
| UA117               | 6:55am | 7:35am | 1, 4, 6    | UA174               | 5:10am  | 5:51am   | 1, 4, 6       |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) |        |        |            | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN |         |          |               |
| UA117/183           | 6:55am | 9:50pm | 1 via Guam | UA184/174           | 10:40pm | 5:51am+1 | 3, 5 via Guam |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL)   |        |        |            | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM   |         |          |               |
| UA183               | 8:00pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5    | UA184               | 10:40pm | 4:30am+1 | 1, 3, 5       |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.               |           |         |                                |                  |           |         |                            |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------------|
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021 |           |         |                                |                  |           |         |                            |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA                        |           |         |                                |                  |           |         |                            |
| FLIGHT #                              | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                      | 1202             | 8:00      | 8:15    | Daily                      |
| 1301                                  | 8:30AM    | 9:00AM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri     | 1203             | 9:00      | 9:15    | Daily                      |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 1204             | 10:00     | 10:15   | Daily                      |
| 1302                                  | 11:00AM   | 11:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri/Sat | 1205             | 11:00     | 11:15   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| 1303                                  | 3:30PM    | 4:00PM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri/Sun | 1206             | 12:00     | 12:15   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN                        |           |         |                                | 1207             | 13:00     | 13:15   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #                              | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                      | 1208             | 14:00     | 14:15   | Daily                      |
| 3101                                  | 9:30AM    | 10:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri     | 1209             | 15:00     | 15:15   | Daily                      |
| 3102                                  | 12:00AM   | 12:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri/Sat | 1210             | 16:00     | 16:15   | Daily                      |
| 3103                                  | 4:30PM    | 5:00PM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/<br>Thurs/Fri/Sun | 1211             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Daily                      |
| ROTA TO GUAM                          |           |         |                                | 1212             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #                              | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                      | TINIAN TO SAIPAN |           |         |                            |
| 3401                                  | 12:15     | 12:45   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable     | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  |
| GUAM TO ROTA                          |           |         |                                | 2101             | 7:30      | 7:45    | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #                              | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                      | 2102             | 8:30      | 8:45    | Daily                      |
| 4301                                  | 13:00     | 13:30   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable     | 2103             | 9:30      | 9:45    | Daily                      |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN                      |           |         |                                | 2104             | 10:30     | 10:45   | Daily                      |
| FLIGHT #                              | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                      | 2105             | 11:30     | 11:45   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
| 1201                                  | 7:00      | 7:15    | Temporarily<br>Unavailable     | 2106             | 12:30     | 12:45   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2107             | 13:30     | 13:45   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2108             | 14:30     | 14:45   | Daily                      |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2109             | 15:30     | 15:45   | Daily                      |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2110             | 16:30     | 16:45   | Daily                      |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2111             | 17:30     | 17:45   | Daily                      |
|                                       |           |         |                                | 2112             | 18:30     | 18:45   | Temporarily<br>Unavailable |



# Business

## 'Stay & Play' at Kensington and COP

By **BEA CABRERA**

beacabrera@saipan.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Good news for staycation enthusiasts and golf-lovers. E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. sister hotels Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque and Coral Ocean Point Golf Course in Obyan are teaming up to give the community an unforgettable golf vacation package called "Stay & Play."

"Starting February, this local promo will take place... All check-in guests can avail of the 'Stay & Play' package which includes one night stay in Oceanview premium de luxe room, breakfast-to-go for two, free in-room mini bar, access to all available facilities like the swimming pools, Infinity pools and Kenny Play Deck, and a round of golf (available for weekdays only) all for only \$219," Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung said.

"Guests can avail one coupon of one round of 18 holes one one player for each room reservation, which will last from February to March 2021...This is really a good



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. CEO and president David Shin, in the middle, are surrounded by CNMI elected officials, business leaders, and golf enthusiasts at the opening ceremony of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course held last Jan. 13.

BEA CABRERA

deal as one round of golf alone already costs \$45 and with this package, our guests can have a unique stay at Kensington and play at Coral Ocean Point Golf Course at an affordable price," Hung added.

Kensington Hotel Saipan opened its doors to the local community mid-last year for

awesome staycation packages and have built a reputation of providing stress-free, relaxing, and budget-friendly mini vacations. Two restaurants are currently in operation—Loria Restaurant, for different themes of dinner buffets and scrumptious Sunday brunches; and OHAS, for those who

crave fresh bread and premium cakes.

After its absence of more than two years due to re-

pairs from the destruction brought by Super Typhoon Yutu, Coral Ocean Point Golf Course opened last Jan.

15 and welcomed golf enthusiasts that have been waiting to play on this world class golf course designed by PGA player golf course architect Larry Nelson.

In an earlier interview, COP Golf Course general manager Calvin Eunpyung Park said that the repair and renovation of the golf course didn't veer away from the original design. "We followed Mr. Nelson's design all the way. ... We planted grass, replaced all the greens in all holes because that is very important in all holes, and we planted hundreds of trees again so players can take a rest under the shade. ... For fun, we added animal décor along the course...an alligator, shark, and turtle," he said.

For more information or reservations, call Kensington at (670) 322-3311 or go to their Facebook page: Kensington Hotel Saipan.

## Democrats prep Biden's virus aid package with or without GOP

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Senate Democrats are preparing to push ahead quickly on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package even if it means using procedural tools to pass the legislation on their own, leaving Republicans behind.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told senators to be ready to vote as soon as next week on a budget reconciliation package that would lay the groundwork for swift passage. Coming so soon in Biden's administration, the action provides a first test of Republican opposition to the White House priorities as well as to the new president's promise of a "unity" agenda.

"The work must move forward, preferably with our Republican colleagues, but without them if we must," Schumer said after a private meeting of Democratic senators.

"Time is of the essence to address this crisis. We're keeping all options open on the table."

Unwilling to wait for Republicans who argue Biden's price tag is too high and his priorities too wide-ranging, Democrats are flexing their newfound power as they take control of the Senate alongside the House and White House.

It is the first time in a decade the party has held the full sweep of power in Washington, and Democrats say they have no time to waste trying to broker compromises with Republicans that may, or may not, happen. They have watched Republicans use similar procedural tools to advance their priorities, most recently the Trump administration's GOP tax cuts.

The fast-moving events days into the new majority on Capitol Hill come as the White House continued meeting privately with groups of Republican and Democratic lawmakers in hopes of striking a bipartisan agreement. Biden's COVID-19 aid package includes money for vaccine distribution, school

reopenings and \$1,400 direct payments to households and gradually boosts the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour over five years.

The next steps remain highly fluid.

The bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus of more than 50 House lawmakers had a "productive meeting and constructive conversation" Tuesday with top administration officials on the virus aid and economic recovery package, according to a statement from Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., and Rep. Tom Reed, R-N.Y., who co-chair the group.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the virtual conversation with the caucus, said there was agreement on the scope of the challenges facing the country and the need for additional relief. Biden and other members of his team intend to continue making their case to lawmakers about the need to act with urgency.

## AP sources: Biden to pause oil and gas sales on public lands

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden is set to announce a wide-ranging moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands and waters, as his administration moves quickly to reverse Trump administration policies on energy and the environment and address climate change.

Two people with knowledge of Biden's plans outlined the proposed moratorium, which will be announced Wednesday. They asked not to be identified because the plan has not been made public; some details remain in flux.

The move follows a 60-day suspension of new drilling permits for U.S. lands and waters announced last week and follows Biden's campaign pledge to halt new drilling on federally controlled land and water as part of his plan to address climate change. The moratorium is intended to allow time for officials to review the impact of oil and gas drilling on the environment and climate.

Environmental groups hailed the expected moratorium as the kind of bold,

urgent action needed to slow climate change.

"The fossil fuel industry has inflicted tremendous damage on the planet. The administration's review, if done correctly, will show that filthy fracking and drilling must end for good, everywhere," said Kieran Suckling, executive director at the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group that has pushed for the drilling pause.

Oil industry groups slammed the move, saying Biden had already eliminated thousands of oil and gas jobs by killing the Keystone XL oil pipeline on his first day in office.

"This is just the start. It will get worse," said Brook Simmons, president of the Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma. "Meanwhile, the laws of physics, chemistry and supply and demand remain in effect. Oil and natural gas prices are going up, and so will home heating bills, consumer prices and fuel costs."

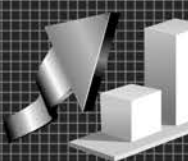
Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, which represents oil and gas drillers in Western states, said the expected

executive order is intended to delay drilling on federal lands to the point where it is no longer viable. Her group pledged to challenge the order in court.

"The environmental left is leading the agenda at the White House when it comes to energy and environment issues," she said, noting that the moratorium would be felt most acutely in Western states such as Utah, Wyoming and North Dakota. Biden lost all three states to former President Donald Trump.

The drilling moratorium is among several climate-related actions Biden will announce Wednesday. He also is likely to direct officials to conserve 30% of the country's lands and ocean waters in the next 10 years, initiate a series of regulatory actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and issue a memorandum that elevates climate change to a national security priority. He also is expected to direct all U.S. agencies to use science and evidence-based decision-making in federal rule-making and announce a U.S.-hosted climate leaders summit on Earth Day, April 22.

### STOCK PORTFOLIO



### LEADING INDICATORS

#### DOW

30,937.04  
-22.96  
0.074%

#### S&P

3,849.62  
-5.74  
+0.15%

#### NASDAQ

13,626.06  
-9.93  
0.073%

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Australian Dollar | 1.2936 |
| British Pound     | 0.7281 |
| Canadian Dollar   | 1.2725 |
| Chinese Yuan      | 6.3557 |
| Euro              | 0.8225 |

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.7514   |
| Indian Rupee       | 72.6204  |
| Japanese Yen       | 103.7420 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 4.0104   |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.3835   |
| Philippine Peso    | 47.2535  |

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Russian Ruble    | 73.9464 |
| Singapore Dollar | 1.3255  |
| South Korean Won | 1084.44 |
| Swiss Franc      | 0.8868  |
| Taiwan Dollar    | 27.6075 |
| Thailand Baht    | 29.9660 |



# Nation

## GOP largely sides against holding Trump impeachment trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—All but five Senate Republicans voted in favor of an effort to dismiss Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial on Tuesday, making clear a conviction of the former president for "incitement of insurrection" after the deadly Capitol siege on Jan. 6 is unlikely.

While the Republicans did not succeed in ending the trial before it began, the test vote made clear that Trump still has enormous sway over his party as he becomes the first former president to be tried for impeachment. Many Republicans have criticized Trump's role in the attack — before which he told his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his defeat — but most of them have rushed to defend him in the trial.

"I think this was indicative of where a lot of people's heads are," said South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, after the vote.

Late Tuesday, the presiding officer at the trial, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., was taken to the hospital for observation after not feeling well at his office, spokesman David Carle said in a statement. The 80-year-old senator was examined by the Capitol's attending physician, who recommended he be taken to the hospital out of an abundance of caution, he said. Later Tuesday, Carle said Leahy had been sent home "after a thorough examination" and was looking forward to getting back to work.

Leahy presided over the trial's first procedural vote, a 55-45 tally that saw the Senate set aside an objection from Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul that would have declared the impeachment proceedings unconstitutional and dismissed the trial.

The vote means the trial on Trump's impeachment will begin as scheduled the week of Feb. 8. The House impeached him Jan. 13, just a week after the deadly insurrection in which five people died.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-and-shut case that played out for the world on live television is running into a Republican Party that feels very different. Not only do senators say they have legal concerns, but they are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers.

It's unclear if any Republicans would vote to convict Trump on the actual charge of incitement after voting in favor of Paul's effort to declare it unconstitutional.

Ohio Sen. Rob Portman said after the vote that he had not yet made up his mind, and that constitutionality "is a totally different issue" than the charge itself.

But many others indicated that they believe the final vote will be similar.

The vote shows that "they've got a long ways to go to prove it," Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst said of House Democrats' charge. South Carolina Sen.



In this image from video, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is presiding over the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, swears in members of the Senate for the impeachment trial at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021.

Lindsey Graham, a close Trump ally, said he thinks the vote was "a floor not a ceiling."

Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford said he thinks that most Republicans will not see daylight between the constitutionality and the article of incitement.

"You're asking me to vote in a trial that by itself on its own is not constitutionally allowed?" he asked.

Conviction would require the support of all Democrats and 17 Republicans, or two-thirds of the Senate—far from the five Republicans who vot-

ed with Democrats Tuesday to allow the trial to proceed. They were Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania — all recent critics of the former president and his effort to overturn President Joe Biden's win.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who has said Trump "provoked" the riots and indicated he is open to conviction, voted with Paul to move toward dismissing the trial.

## US boosting vaccine deliveries amid complaints of shortages

Answering growing frustration over vaccine shortages, President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that the U.S. is ramping up deliveries to hard-pressed states over the next three weeks and expects to provide enough doses to vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of the summer or early fall.

Biden, calling the push a "wartime effort," said the administration was working to buy an additional 100 million doses of each of the two approved coronavirus vaccines. He acknowledged that states in recent weeks have been left guessing how much vaccine they will have from one week to the next.

Shortages have been so severe that some vaccination sites around the U.S. had to cancel tens of thousands of appointments with people seeking their first shot.

"This is unacceptable," Biden said. "Lives are at stake." He promised a roughly 16%

boost in deliveries to states over the next three weeks.

The administration said it plans to buy another 100 million doses each from drugmakers Pfizer and Moderna to ensure it has enough vaccine for the long term. Even more vaccine could be available if federal scientists approve a single-dose shot from Johnson & Johnson, which is expected to seek emergency authorization in the coming weeks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the government plans to make about 10.1 million first and second doses available next week, up from this week's allotment of 8.6 million. The figures represent doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. It was not immediately clear how long the surge of doses could be sustained.

Governors and top health officials have been increasingly raising the alarm about

inadequate supplies and the need for earlier and more reliable estimates of how much vaccine is on the way so that they can plan.

Biden's team held its first virus-related call with the nation's governors on Tuesday and pledged to provide states with firm vaccine allocations three weeks ahead of delivery.

Biden's announcement came a day after he grew more bullish about exceeding his vaccine pledge to deliver 100 million injections in his first 100 days in office, suggesting that a rate of 1.5 million doses per day could soon be achieved.

The administration has also promised more openness and said it will hold news briefings three times a week, beginning Wednesday, about the outbreak that has killed over 420,000 Americans.

"We appreciate the administration stating that it will provide states with slightly higher allocations for the next few

weeks, but we are going to need much more supply," said Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican.

The setup inherited from the Trump administration has been marked by miscommunication and unexplained bottlenecks, with shortages reported in some places even as vaccine doses remain on the shelf.

Officials in West Virginia, which has had one of the best rates of administering vaccine, said they have fewer than 11,000 first doses on hand even after this week's shipment.

"I'm screaming my head off" for more, Republican Gov. Jim Justice said.

California, which has faced criticism over a slow vaccine rollout, announced Tuesday that it is centralizing its hodgepodge of county systems and streamlining appointment sign-up, notification and eligibility. Residents have been baffled by the varying rules in different counties.

## Veteran activists campaign for Biden's immigration reform

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Immigrant rights activists energized by a new Democratic administration and majorities on Capitol Hill are gearing up for a fresh political battle to push through a proposed bill from President Joe Biden that would open a pathway to citizenship for up to 11 million people.

The multimillion-dollar #WeAreHome campaign was launched Monday by national groups including United We Dream and the United Farm Workers Foundation. It starts with ads on Facebook and other social media to reach lawmakers and the constituents who can pressure them.

"We are home," a young woman's voice declares in the first video spot showing immigrants in essential jobs such as cleaning and health care. "Home, even when they say we don't belong."

The effort is a longshot. Immigration remains a third rail dividing Republicans and Democrats in the U.S., and opponents of the measure have pledged to fight it. Although Democrats now account for 50 of 100 senators, with a deciding vote by Vice President Kamala Harris, the bill will need at least 60 votes to pass.

Opponents promised to launch their own social media blitz, as well as TV and

radio ads. They also said they would write letters and meet virtually with members of Congress.

But organizers say they enjoy the momentum of a new administration and growing public support for giving people in the U.S. illegally a chance at citizenship. The activists note they are also more seasoned.

"The movement has matured," said Lorella Praeli, the Peruvian-born co-president of Community Change, among the national groups leading the campaign. "It's more diverse, experienced."

Praeli, now 32, was brought to the U.S. when she was 10 so she could get better medical treatment after losing a leg in an accident. She became an immigrant activist in her teens.

Praeli honed her skills as Latino communities outreach director for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign before addressing the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

She said the new battle is being waged on various levels, from grassroots organizing in communities to lobbying on Capitol Hill. The five groups chairing the campaign are paying for the effort with their own fundraising.

"We need an early breakthrough on immigration," said Praeli. "We have 100 days to set the tone."



# Asia

## Under Biden, China faces renewed trade pressure

**BEIJING (AP)**—The U.S.-Chinese trade war isn't going away under President Joe Biden.

Biden won't confront Beijing right away, economists say, because he wants to focus on the coronavirus and the economy. But he looks set to renew pressure over trade and technology grievances that prompted President Donald Trump to hike tariffs on Chinese imports in 2017.

Negotiators might tone down Trump's focus on narrowing China's multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States and push harder to open its state-dominated economy, which matters more in the long run, economists say. But no abrupt tariff cuts or other big changes are expected.

"I think Biden will focus more on trying to extract structural reforms," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics. "It's going to take some time before we get any shift or explicit announcements."

Biden is evaluating tariffs on Chinese goods and wants to coordinate future steps with allies, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday. She gave no indication of possible changes.

"The president is committed to stopping China's economic abuses," Psaki said.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, ap-

pealed to Washington to learn from Trump's "erroneous policies" and adopt a "constructive attitude" but gave no indication of possible changes by Beijing.

"Cooperation is the only correct choice for both sides," Zhao said Tuesday.

Trump acted on complaints that are shared by Europe and other traders, but Washington has little to show for its bruising war. It brought President Xi Jinping's government to the bargaining table but roiled global trade, raised consumer prices and wiped out jobs.

The last major development was a year ago, when Beijing promised in the "Phase One" agreement of January 2020 to buy more soybeans and other U.S. exports and stop pressuring companies to hand over technology.

China fell short on those purchases. Amid the coronavirus turmoil, it bought about 55% of what it promised. As for tech policy, some economists say those changes matter but question whether it counts as a win. They say Beijing might have made them anyway to suit its own plans.

China faces more opposition than ever in Washington due to its trade record, territorial disputes with neighbors, crackdown on Hong Kong, reports of abuses against ethnic Muslims and accusations of technology theft and spying.

"The ground has shifted in a significant way," said Nathan Sheets, a former Treasury undersecretary for international affairs in the Obama administration.

Katherine Tai, Biden's choice to succeed U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, sounded a hawkish note on China in a speech this month.

"We face stiffening competition from a growing and ambitious China," said Tai. "A China whose economy is directed by central planners who are not subject to the pressures of political pluralism, democratic elections or popular opinion."

That means China has to make changes if wants to make progress, said Raoul Leering, global trade analyst for ING. He said that while many of Trump's statements were "close to nonsense," he was right that China has more trade barriers and official intervention in the economy than the United States.

"It will depend on China, the speed at which they reform and change policies, to see whether Biden will roll back trade barriers," he said.

After 2 1/2 years and 13 rounds of talks, negotiators have yet to tackle one of the biggest irritants for China's trading partners — the status of politically favored state companies that dominate industries from banking to oil to telecoms.

the national caseload to 76,429, including 1,378 deaths.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Health officials in New Zealand say all the close contacts of a woman who caught the coronavirus have tested negative, as fears of an outbreak ease. The woman became infected from another traveler just before leaving quarantine after returning from Europe. Several people have tested positive in quarantine. Meanwhile, officials have begun outlining plans for the nation's vaccination program, which they hope will get underway in earnest by midyear. Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said they aim to vaccinate at least 70% of the population. He said a recent survey showed about 70% of people would embrace getting inoculated, 20% would be hesitant and up to 10% would be opposed. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said

this week that the nation's borders could remain closed for the rest of the year. Officials acknowledge that New Zealand's success in eliminating the community spread of the virus means it may need to wait longer than some countries to get vaccines.

■ Indonesian President Joko Widodo received the second dose of the Chinese coronavirus vaccine on Wednesday, two weeks after the first injection. Indonesia has given priority to health workers and public officers after authorizing the emergency use of the Sinovac vaccine. Several top military, police and health officials also received their second shots at the Presidential Palace, as well as a celebrity who is a social media influencer. The Health Ministry data showed about 245,685 people have been vaccinated so far, most of them health workers. On Tuesday, Indonesia's confirmed cases surpassed 1 million with 28,46 deaths.

# World

**AS OUTBREAK STILL RAGES**

## UK passes 100,000 coronavirus deaths

**LONDON (AP)**—More than 100,000 people have died in the United Kingdom after contracting the coronavirus, a year into Europe's deadliest outbreak, figures from the government showed Tuesday.

Britain is the fifth country in the world to record 100,000 virus-related deaths, after the United States, Brazil, India and Mexico, and by far the smallest. The U.S. has recorded more than 400,000 COVID-19 deaths, the world's highest total, but its population of about 330 million is about five times Britain's.

The health department said 100,162 people have died after testing positive, including 1,631 new deaths reported Tuesday.

"It's hard to compute the sorrow contained in that grim statistic," a somber Prime Minister Boris Johnson said at a televised news conference.

The U.K. toll is more than twice as many people as were killed by German bombs in Britain in the 1940-41 Blitz, and 30,000 more than the total number of British civilians killed during the six years of World War II.

The first confirmed British victim of the virus was Pe-



AP

In this Tuesday, March 3, 2020 file photo Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson reacts during a press conference at Downing Street on the government's coronavirus action plan in London.

ter Attwood, an 84-year-old retiree who died on Jan. 30, 2020—though the cause was not recorded as COVID-19 until months later.

A year on, hundreds of thousands of Britons are grieving the loss of loved ones, and demanding an accounting for the terrible toll.

In part, Britain has suffered because of longstanding factors such as high levels of conditions including obesity and heart disease, a large gap between rich and poor and London's status as a global crossroads.

But decisions during the pandemic also played a part. Johnson's Conservative government is accused by many scientists of waiting too long

to impose a lockdown in March as infections were rising exponentially. Leading epidemiologists say acting a week sooner might have cut the death toll in half.

As in other European countries, cases fell in the summer, then took off again. A more transmissible variant identified in southeast England helped push infections to new highs, and brought a new lockdown, even as a nationwide vaccination campaign began.

Johnson—who spent a week in the hospital with the virus in April—has promised that a public inquiry will examine Britain's handling of the pandemic, though he has not said when it will start.

## Maduro's 'miracle' treatment for COVID-19 draws skeptics

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro appears to be counting on yet another "miracle" to save his citizens from COVID-19, promoting a secretive solution with no published scientific evidence he claims will conquer the new coronavirus.

"Ten drops under the tongue every four hours and the miracle is done," Maduro said in a televised appearance on Sunday. "It's a powerful antiviral, very powerful, that neutralizes the coronavirus."

But his government has released no evidence. He even kept secret the name of the "brilliant Venezuelan mind" behind it, saying he needed to protect them. Scientists at home and abroad remained skeptical. The local National Academy of Medicine said it appeared to be derived from the common herb thyme.

It's not the first time the Venezuelan leader has promoted a cure. In October, he notified the Pan American Health Organization that Venezuelan scientists discovered a molecule that nullifies the replication capacity of the new coronavirus. He hasn't spoken of that development since. He's also promoted a special herbal tea he claims can fend off the virus and other ailments.

Other leaders too have embraced solutions dismissed by scientific studies. Former U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro both stubbornly touted an antimalarial drug despite repeated studies finding it ineffective and possibly dangerous.

The new coronavirus hasn't hit Venezuela as hard as other South American countries such as Brazil,

Ecuador and Peru, though many experts say that's likely because sanctions against Maduro's government have sharply limited travel there.

Maduro said the treatment, which he called carvativir, has been under testing for nine months among Venezuelans ill with the coronavirus. He said he plans to distribute it nationwide and to other nations as well.

Dr. David Boulware, professor of medicine and an infectious diseases physician at the University of Minnesota Medical School, noted the lack of scientific evidence.

"This is, just as with other things, people trying to sell, you know, some magic beans as the solution to a complex problem," Boulware told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "This would be great if it worked, but I would like to see the data."

## South Korea adds 559 cases, highest in 10 days

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—South Korea has reported 599 new coronavirus cases, the highest in 10 days, as health workers scramble to slow infections at religious facilities, which have been a major source throughout the pandemic.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said 112 of the new cases came from the southwestern city of Gwangju, where more than 100 have so far been linked to a missionary training school. An affiliated facility in the central city of Daejeon has been linked to more than 170 infections.

The Seoul metropolitan area reported nearly 300 cases.

South Korea has repeatedly seen big clusters emerge from religious groups, including more than 5,000 linked to the secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus that drove a major outbreak last spring.

The figures released by the agency on Wednesday brought



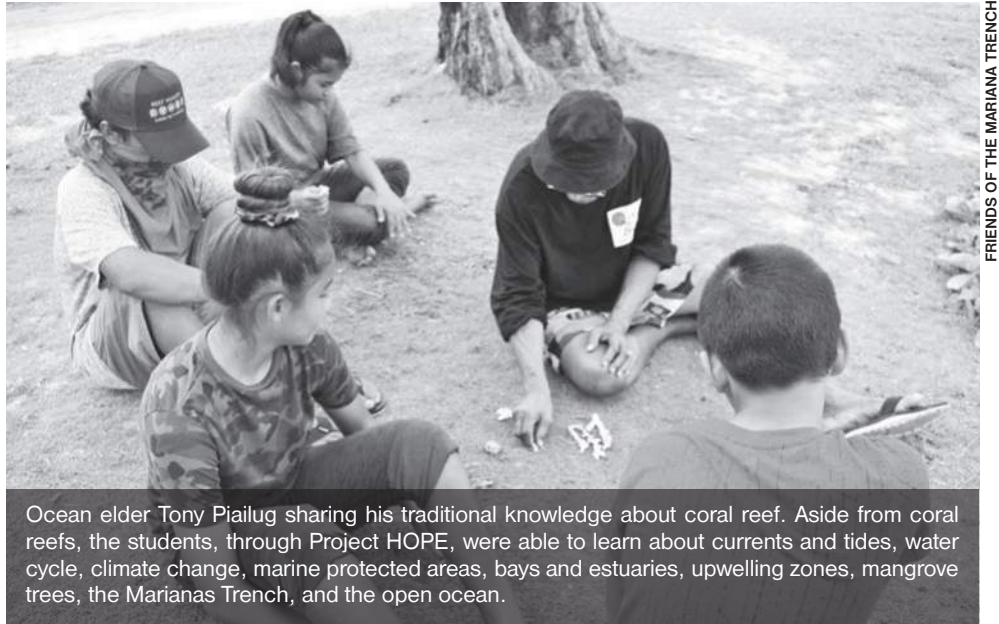
# Environment

“ Human behavior has the greatest impact on the ocean. ”

Johnston Applied Marine Sciences' Kelsey McClellan, who works on coral reef restoration via the Saipan Coral Nursery Project, engages the Project HOPE students through a Coral Reef Mapping activity.



FRIENDS OF THE MARIANA TRENCH



FRIENDS OF THE MARIANA TRENCH

Ocean elder Tony Pailug sharing his traditional knowledge about coral reef. Aside from coral reefs, the students, through Project HOPE, were able to learn about currents and tides, water cycle, climate change, marine protected areas, bays and estuaries, upwelling zones, mangrove trees, the Marianas Trench, and the open ocean.

Seventeen students from Tanapag Middle School and Dandan Middle School had just successfully completed, this Fall semester, their ocean-science journey with Project HOPE (Healthy Oceans & People Empowerment), where they learned about the ocean and its marine life, the policies that protect them, and really, just how important a role the ocean plays for the island's present and future generations.

Project HOPE is a no-cost ocean science program created by Friends of the Mariana Trench, under a grant from the Administration of Native Americans, and their goal—to cultivate 30 new indigenous ocean/marine scientists by 2030.

*Saipan Tribune* sat down with Joe Villacrusis, FOMT project coordinator, to learn more about Project HOPE, and go deep into this very significant educational undertaking.

“We would like to develop an interest in these children to become ocean stewards and/or become ocean scientists. We also want them to know and understand the culture surrounding our oceans and the traditional practices from our ocean elders so that they can make the connection with that and science,” Villacrusis shared.

“This will greatly benefit the community because we are nurturing and developing these young minds to become more aware of how important our ocean is to not just for our culture and community, but also for many generations to come,” he added.

Through Project HOPE's experiential learning, young minds get molded into becoming more aware and protecting of the environment, particularly of the ocean.

Right now, for 2021, they are rounding up new 6th graders to add to those who already pre-registered from the Fall. “Recruiting starts now through approximately Feb. 14. We are going to hold learning sessions from mid to late February lasting through early June.”

## Cultivating new marine scientists

FOMT's strategic focus, from 2019 up until 2024, is on creating educational pathways that support the cultivation of 30 new indigenous ocean/marine scientists by 2030.

“The FOMT founding members always envisioned that we could help support education pathways to ocean and marine science degrees for our local citizens. We also saw the opportunity for citizen scientists to help with research projects for our community.”

In 2017, FOMT held its first Open ROV (remote-operated vehicles) robotics building workshops—two intensive trainer's training workshops, where those trained were taught to teach students on how to construct, maintain, and operate underwater remote operated vehicles, to formal and informal researchers,

## Project HOPE: Healthy Oceans & People Empowerment

*Cultivating the hope of the future, for the CNMI's oceans*

By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT



Project HOPE students get to be hands-on during their class on Sea Urchin Dissection by Dave Benavente. Last Fall 2020, students from Tanapag Middle School and Dandan Middle School piloted the program, the goal of which is to cultivate 30 new indigenous ocean/marine scientists by 2030.

FRIENDS OF THE MARIANA TRENCH

citizen scientists, junior high, high school and college students.

“Project HOPE is our second big adventure in pursuing our goals to help with increasing ocean and marine science education in the CNMI,” Villacrusis said.

For two years, from 2018 to 2019, FOMT brainstormed with members of the community, to create a structure that would achieve the goal of cultivating new marine scientists on island. They looked at enrollment at the Northern Marianas College to see how many students were participating in the Natural Resources Management Program and tried to determine how many of them are actually interested in marine science.

FOMT's research on how to increase the number of students seeking marine science degrees led them to examining the current ACT Aspire test scores for middle school students, and then discussing the importance of 6th grader-aptitude with PSS teachers and curriculum professionals.

Villacrusis added that, inspired by the desire to improve sixth grader's ACT aspire test scores, Project HOPE got designed to use

experiential learning to help CNMI students understand experimental results, inferences, models and data.

From there, they reached out to some of the island's ocean elders to ask for guidance on how to blend traditional practices with the STEM principle learning taught in most formal education environments, as well as inquired with marine science professionals on how to best structure their approach.

This resulted to a multi-tiered approach, Project HOPE being just the first step.

“There are three more projects we are developing that work together with Project HOPE, which will target other age groups—3rd, 9th, and 12th grades. We are also being inclusive and sensitive to other projects already underway so that our efforts will enhance work that is already in progress.”

## What students can learn

“HOPE is also an ocean conservation program that allows sixth graders, college students, and experienced ocean experts to join forces in protecting their home. Project HOPE is the sun of

FOMT's universe and we are building everything else around it.”

Last Fall 2020 semester, with active involvement from five Ocean Elders and seven NMC ENRO Club members, Project HOPE students learned about the following: Introduction to Oceans, Currents/Tides, Water Cycle, Climate Change, Coral Reef Life, Coral Bleaching, Marine Protected Areas, The Marianas Trench, Bays & Estuaries, Upwelling Zones, Open Ocean, Mangrove Trees, swimming, rope tying, and even dissecting sea urchins.

“The topics below were chosen because it was aligned with some of the conceptual and aptitude questions in science from the ACT Aspire Assessment given to students in the CNMI Public School System especially at the middle school level,” Villacrusis explained.

“... So not only are we providing these children with knowledge about the ocean, we are also teaching them how to apply this knowledge to get better scores in their assessment in science.”

For this year, 2021, sessions will be similar to those held in the Fall, but with improvements based on what FOMT learned from Project HOPE's pilot session.

The semester will wrap up with an Ocean Camp mid to late June, based on the last days of the Public School System's school calendar.

## Hope for the future

Project HOPE began in late 2019, with the awarding of the ANA grant. The ANA grant is funded through September 2022, but as early as now, strategies are already being built by FOMT to continue the program via alternate resources once the ANA grant ends.

Aside from children learning about the ocean, its marine life, and how to protect them, Project HOPE can also open opportunities for the college to offer more science programs, and subsequently, open more jobs and attract different scientists from around the world to study our surrounding ocean, especially the Marianas Trench.

“The first thing we want the community to know is to get the facts about the ocean, the marine life it supports, and how it serves humans as a whole. Once they understand how important the ocean is to us, they will better understand why it is critical to protect it. Human behavior has the greatest impact on the ocean,” Villacrusis stressed.

“How we live our lives can directly and indirectly affect the ocean. So every little action such as picking up after ourselves and practicing a more sustainable lifestyle can add up if everyone does their part and takes responsibility for our environment.”

To register for, or learn more about Project HOPE, as well as other programs of the Friends of the Mariana Trench, call (670) 483-FOMT (3668), or email [info@friendsofthetrench.org](mailto:info@friendsofthetrench.org).



# Life & Style

## Dwayne Johnson is a contender in NBC sitcom 'Young Rock'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Dwayne Johnson's new NBC comedy "Young Rock" has him campaigning for president in 2032, but the actor and producer sidestepped the possibility of a real-life run someday.

A coming-of-age story inspired by the former pro wrestler's colorful but challenging childhood and youth, "Young Rock" is framed by the adult Johnson's reflections on his life as he stumps for office.

Is Johnson cleverly preparing America for his next act?

"I think the people will prepare me. I can say that," he replied with a laugh.

Using the candidacy as a device to revisit his past was suggested by Nahnatchka Khan, executive producer of "Young Rock," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Johnson also is an executive

producer for the series, debuting Feb. 16, with his younger versions played by Adrian Groulx, Bradley Constant and Uli Latukefu.

"We were trying to figure out a creative way that I can be intertwined in every episode, to be part of it. This was (Khan's) idea, and at first I was a little reticent about it because it's political," he said. "You just knew that by the time the show was coming out, politics was going to take yet another hard turn and be so polarizing as it is."

Khan's persuasive argument: "She said something to the effect of, 'Well, you always say you're a man of the people, and I think we should give it a shot,'" Johnson recounted.

In a 2018 Vanity Fair interview, the film and TV star said he'd seriously considered a



This combination of photos released by NBC shows, from left, Dwayne Johnson, left, and the actors who portray him in the comedy series "Young Rock," Adrian Groulx as Dwayne at 10, Bradley Constant as Dwayne at 15 and Uli Latukefu as Dwayne at 20. The series premieres on Feb. 16.

NBC VIA AP

2020 run for president but decided against it.

During a Q&A Tuesday with TV critics, Johnson was asked if he would invite U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren—a self-proclaimed fan of Johnson's 2015-19 "Ballers" sports comedy—to make a cameo appearance on "Young Rock."

"If we're lucky enough to come back for a second round (of episodes), then maybe she will then," he said. And what

about President Joe Biden as a guest?

"Well, I can see that happening," he told The AP. "It all depends on how far we

go with it (the series). But I am friends with Sen. Warren, President Biden as well, and Vice President Kamala Harris, and so I wouldn't rule it out."

## Jane Fonda to receive Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Jane Fonda cemented herself into Hollywood allure as a chameleonlike actor and social activist, and now the Golden Globes will honor her illustrious career with its highest honor.

Fonda will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award during the 78th annual awards ceremony on Feb. 28, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday. A member of one of America's most distinguished acting families, Fonda has captivated and inspired fans along with critics in such films as "Klute" and "Coming Home."

Fonda, the daughter of Oscar winner Henry Fonda and sister of Peter Fonda, made an impact off-screen by creating organizations to support women's equality and prevent teen pregnancy and improve adolescent health. She released a workout video in 1982 and was active on behalf of liberal political causes.

In a statement, HFPA President Ali Sar applauded the Golden Globe winner's decorated career and her "unrelenting activism."

"Her undeniable talent has gained her the highest level of recognition," Sar said of Fonda. "While her professional life has taken many turns, her unwavering commitment to evoking change has remained."

The DeMille Award is given annually to an "individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment."

Past recipients include Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Lucille Ball.

Nominations for the upcoming Globes show are scheduled to be announced Feb. 3.

Fonda, 83, has been nominated for five Academy Awards and won two for the thriller "Klute" and the com-

passionate anti-war drama "Coming Home." She had other prominent films including "The China Syndrome," "The Electric Horseman" with Robert Redford, and "9 to 5" with Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton. She stars in the Netflix television series "Grace & Frankie."

Fonda gained notoriety in the 1970s when she traveled to North Vietnam during the height of the anti-Vietnam War protests and posed for photos next to an anti-aircraft gun. She fell under hefty criticism for her decision—one she repeatedly apologized for—to pose in the photo that gave her the nickname "Hanoi Jane."

In 2014, Fonda was given a lifetime achievement award by the American Film Institute. She launched IndieCollect's Jane Fonda Fund for Women Directors, an organization aimed to support the restoration of films helmed by women from around the world.

## Elliot Page and Emma Portner divorcing after 3 years

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Actor Elliot Page and Emma Portner said Tuesday that they are divorcing after three years of marriage.

"After much thought and careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to divorce following our separation last summer," the Canadian couple said in a joint statement. "We have the utmost respect for each other and remain close friends."

They gave no further details. Page, the 33-year-old Oscar-nominated star of "Juno," "Inception" and "The Umbrella Academy," and Portner, a 26-year-old choreographer and dance teacher, announced their



Emma Portner, left, and Ellen Page arrive at the world premiere of "Flatliners" on Sept. 27, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

marriage early in 2018 after only having hinted at their relationship on social media.

Portner was vocal in her support of Page when the actor

came out as transgender in December, an announcement that was widely greeted as a watershed moment for the trans community in Hollywood.

## Man who won't fight fair turns arguments into battles

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in a nearly two-year relationship with a man I love. In so many ways, this is the relationship I've always hoped for and, being in my early 30s, I'm feeling ready to settle down. The problem? He doesn't fight fair.

I have put an exorbitant amount of effort into remaining calm and loving during arguments to prevent our relationship from deteriorating, but he seems incapable of meeting me halfway. His unfair fighting comes in the form of aggressive tones, obscene faces, looking at his phone while I'm talking and sometimes ignoring me entirely.

These arguments are usually over minor issues that are nowhere near warranting a full-blown fight (for example, dishes not being done when he came home from work because I work from home and put it off to do during nonwork hours).

Our relationship is otherwise great, but if I'm going to commit to someone for life, I want them to be capable of having calm and healthy conversations. He thinks I'm controlling when I ask him not to use aggressive tones or make faces. What do I do?

FIGHTING FAIR IN OREGON

**DEAR FIGHTING:** I will assume that the man you are in love with is around the same age as you. By the time someone reaches their 30s, their personalities are usually set.

**This man behaves the way he does because it works for him. It enables HIM to control YOU.**

**If he values your relationship, he should be willing to discuss this in couples counseling so these conversations are constructive rather than adversarial. If he isn't, however, keep looking for a more suitable mate because this Mister ain't Wonderful.**

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'd like to alert your readers to something that happened to me so it may keep it from happening to them. In her later years, my dear mother was afflicted with dementia. When it became clear she could no longer live alone, I went to live with her.

One day, I went looking for the albums of photos from when my brothers and I were kids, family vacations, etc. After searching high and low and not finding them, I asked Mom what had happened to them. Turns out, she threw them out because she didn't remember any of the people in the pictures! To say I was devastated would be an understatement.

I couldn't be angry with Mom. It wasn't her fault. But Abby, your readers need to know that it can happen to them. My mother has been gone for 10 years, and I still wish I had those photos.

MISSING MEMORIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR MISSING:** I'm glad you wrote. Your letter is a reminder that when family members begin to age, it's impor-

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**tant to make the time to sit down with them and go through family pictures. My own dear mother urged her readers to not only review those photos, but also to write on the backs the date they were taken and the names of who is in them. This is a precious gift because memories do start to fade. It can stimulate wonderful conversations if people are willing to make the effort.**

■■■

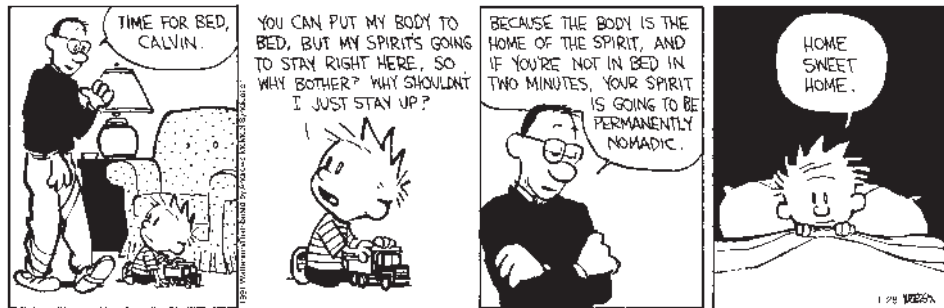
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



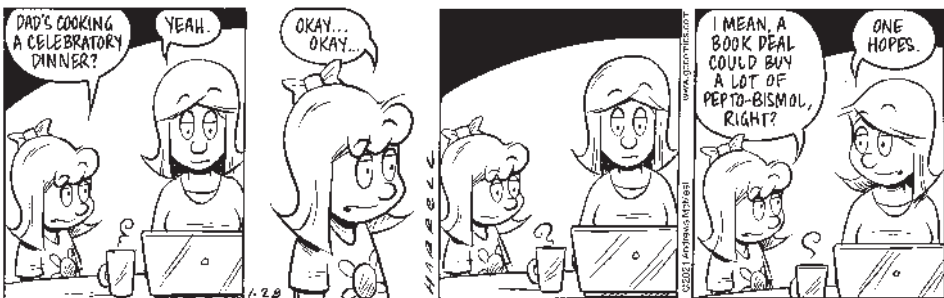
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Sledder's cry

5 "The Sopranos" ailer

8 Obi

12 Deserve

13 "Alley —"

14 Mystique

15 Telly watcher

16 Actor Erwin

17 PC picture

18 "Don't fight!"

20 Fasting period

22 Com-muter's computa-tion

26 Hint at

29 Connec-tions

30 Desk wood

31 Shopper's delight

32 Superlat-ive suffix

33 Tight-fitting

34 Big Apple sch.

35 Persian, for one

**DOWN**

1 Super-model

2 Aesopian also-ran

3 Ms. Brock-ovich

4 Qualify

5 Book before

6 Droid

7 Luxurious

8 Canon-ized

9 Bidding

10 Hit show

11 Solo of "Star Wars"

19 Sob

21 Overhead trains

23 Panorama

24 Hawaiian island

25 Heart charts (Abbr.)

26 "Money — every-thing!"

27 Polite query

28 Fruity sushi bar drink

32 Aviator Amelia

33 Seasoned sausages

35 Dol. fractions

36 Spell-down

38 Duck down

39 Engine sound

42 Ex-quar-terback

43 Diamond arbiters

44 El —, Texas

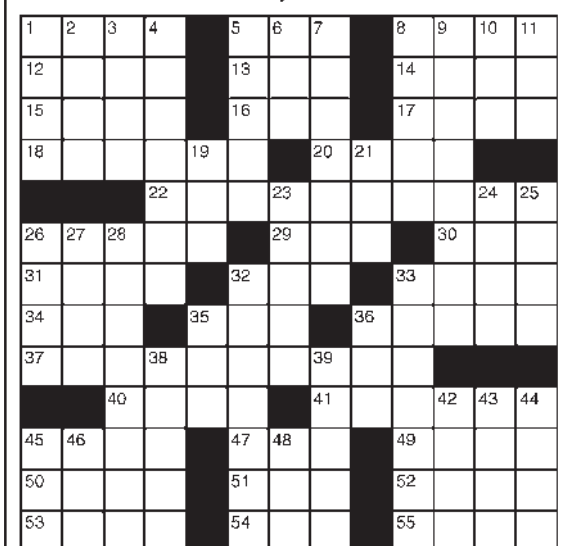
45 Knee protector

46 Whatever

48 Stickum

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-28**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ariel Winter, 23; Elijah Wood, 40; Sarah McLachlan, 53; Frank Darabont, 62.

**Happy Birthday:** Be a leader, not a follower. Trust and believe in your ability to do what's best for you. Refuse to let the changes others make lead you astray or make you feel uncertain about what you want. Be smart regarding your associates, and let honesty and integrity be your guides when making tough decisions. Show compassion, but don't compromise your standards. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 27, 30, 33, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** The tide is turning, and things are falling into place. Before you become complacent, take a closer look at the small but essential details. You'll save yourself from wasting time backtracking. Play to win, not just to get by. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take a chill pill before you engage in banter with someone who is pushing emotional buttons. If you back yourself into a corner, it will be challenging to find your way back. Keep the peace, stay calm and gravitate toward opportunities, not liabilities. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gather information, learn all you can and refuse to let anyone interfere with what you are trying to accomplish. If you lay down ground rules and express your thoughts and plans intelligently, you'll create a platform that allows you to excel. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Taking care of partnerships and money matters and designating who does what will help

you get off to a good start. As long as you control spending and are receptive to expert advice, you'll get to where you want intact. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll face problems with someone who is bullheaded. Before you take action, consider mellowing the situation by taking a peaceful approach. How you handle others will make the difference between failure and success. Do your best to outsmart adversity. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** If you want a change, be the one to make it happen. Uncertainty and confusion aren't becoming when dealing with colleagues who are counting on you. Be responsible, do a bang-up job and reap the reward. Romance is on the rise. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Ideas you planted are starting to grow. Start a conversation with someone you'd like to work alongside. A change can be useful as long as you are practical when it comes to the cost involved. Accept the inevitable, and embrace new beginnings. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep an open mind and your emotions controlled. A learning experience will manifest through an encounter with a friend, relative or peer. Tread carefully to avoid an irreversible situation. Offer peace and love, not discord and chaos. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Make last-minute changes to documents, contracts or financial deals that are binding. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into something that prompts uncertainty. Be smart; make

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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decisions based on facts, figures and what's best for you. ★★★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Problems will mount if you can't get along with a partner, friend or relative. Take a step back, assess the situation and look for a way to ensure that no one is taken advantage of financially, emotionally or physically. Do what's right. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take your time. Don't feel pressured to decide or move if you aren't ready or comfortable with others' requests. Be open about what you want and what you are willing to do. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Keep an open mind, but don't share your thoughts. Listen with interest, gather information and assess situations before you make a decision. Time is on your side, and good decisions will lead to a better future. Don't act in haste. ★★★

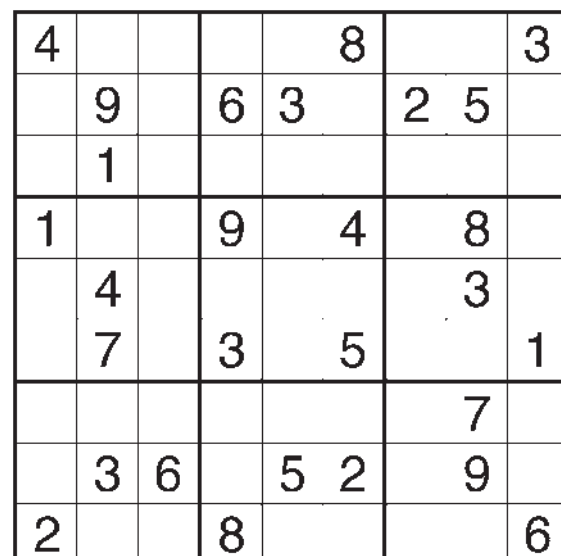
**Birthday Baby:** You are thoughtful, knowledgeable and accommodating. You are entertaining and fashionable.

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



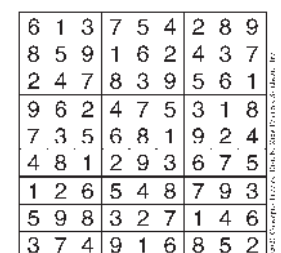
Difficulty Level ★★★

1/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT RELAXES YOU?

Solution: 7 letters



© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 1/28

Bake, Bath, Beach, Bed, Bored, Breathing, Bubbles, Calm, Canoe, Cook, Dance, Diary, Draw, Drive, Family, Farm, Garden, Gratitude, Journal, Knit, Lake, Laugh, Massage, Meditate, Milk, Mind, Movie, Music, Nature, Ocean, Origami, Paint, Peace, Pets, Plants, Poem, Pottery, Quiet, Rain, Read, Ride, River, Shop, Sing, Sleep, Smile, Social, Sports, Sudoku, Swim, Teas, Walk, Waves, Write, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Cruises

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6430.



# Wall scores 24 to lead Rockets over Wizards



**HOUSTON (AP)**—On a minutes restriction because of a sore knee, Houston's John Wall had to wait until the seven-minute mark of the fourth quarter to re-enter Tuesday night's game against his former team.

When he finally checked in, it didn't take long for him to put a punctuation mark on a solid performance by the Rockets.

Wall scored 24 points to help Houston to a 107-88 victory over Russell Westbrook and the Washington Wizards.

Wall had 15 points and four assists by halftime, including a left-handed layup that came after a nifty behind the back move and put Houston up 53-45 in the second quarter. He cooled off in the third, but got going again in the fourth to secure the win in his second game back after missing five with a sore left knee.

Houston was leading by six when Wall re-entered the game. He scored five quick points before finding Victor Oladipo in the corner near the Washington bench for a 3-pointer to make it 93-79.

"I was itching to get back in in the fourth quarter," he said. "I wanted to play, especially against my old team. And we kind of separated ourselves

right there."

Wall was selected by Washington with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 draft and spent his entire career with the Wizards before he was traded to Houston in December for Westbrook and a future first-round pick.

He insisted he didn't think he had anything to prove against the Wizards. But he did admit that he's having a great time with his new team after a rocky ending to his tenure in Washington.

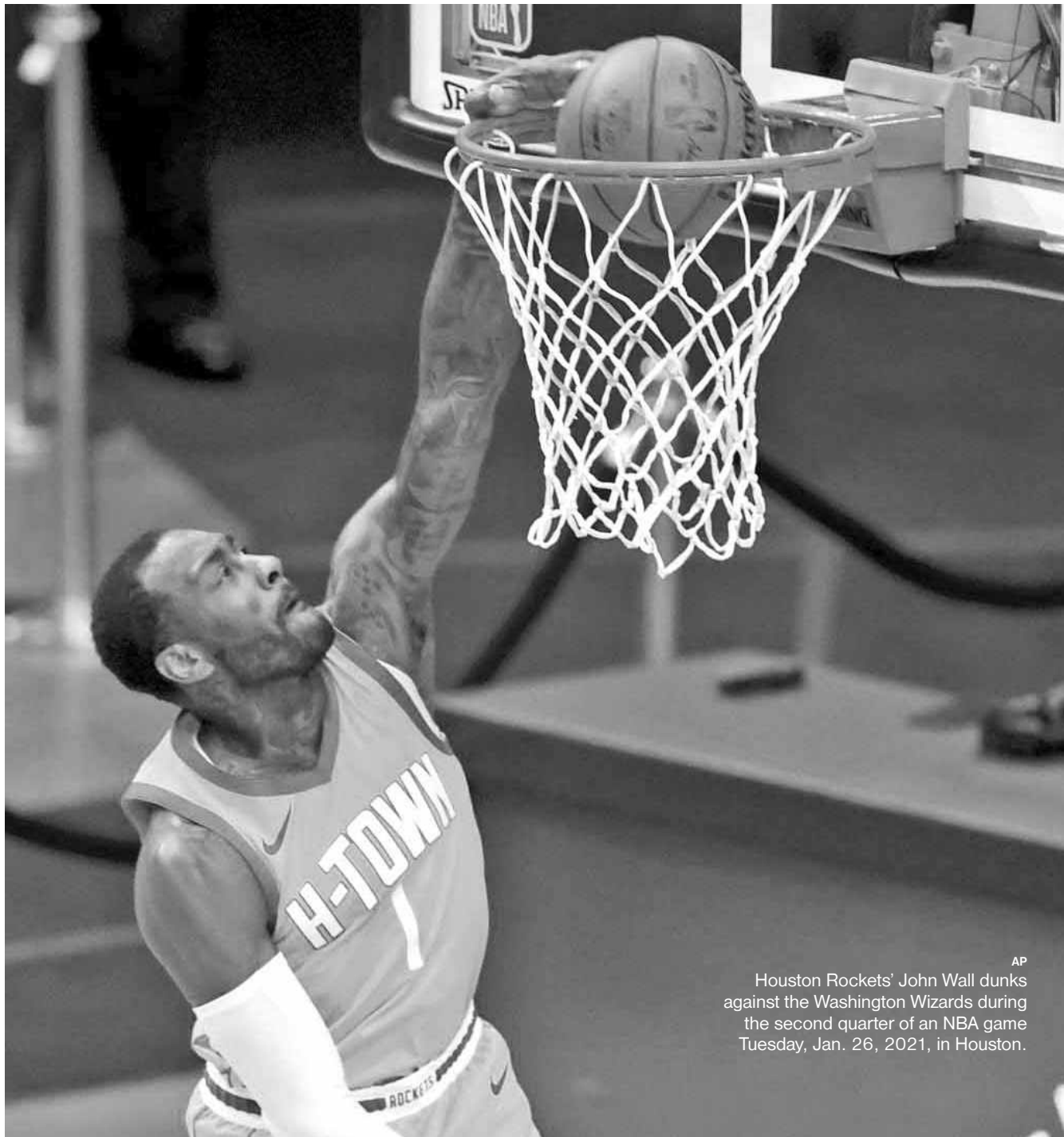
"I haven't played in two years so this is fun," he said. "To be somewhere where you're wanted, that's the most important thing. I never want to be anywhere where I'm not wanted and I feel like this organization wanted me here and they've shown nothing but love and trust for me since Day One."

Washington coach Scott Brooks was impressed by Wall's performance after watching him work his way back from injury over the past two seasons.

## Jazz 108, Knicks 94

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 18 points, 19 rebounds and four blocked shots, and the Jazz earned their ninth consecutive win.

Royce O'Neale scored 20 points, helping Utah overcome a quiet night for Donovan Mitchell. Mike Conley



AP  
Houston Rockets' John Wall dunks against the Washington Wizards during the second quarter of an NBA game Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, in Houston.

## Baseball Hall gets no new members

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Baseball Hall of Fame won't have any new players in the class of 2021 after voters decided no one had the merits—on the field or off—for enshrinement in Cooperstown.

Curt Schilling, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were the closest in voting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America released Tuesday, and the trio will have one more chance at election next year. It's the first time the BBWAA didn't choose anyone since 2013.

Schilling, a right-handed ace who won three World Series titles, finished 16 votes short of the 75% threshold necessary for enshrinement. He got 71.1% percent this time after coming up 20 votes shy at 70% last year.

Schilling's on-field accomplishments face little dispute, but he has ostracized himself in retirement by directing hateful remarks toward Muslims, transgender people, journalists and others.

"It's all right, the game doesn't owe me anything," Schilling said during a live video stream on

his Twitter account.

He later wrote on Facebook that he has asked the Hall of Fame to remove his name from next year's ballot. Hall of Fame Board Chairman Jane Forbes Clark said in a statement that the board "will consider the request at our next meeting."

Bonds (61.8%) and Clemens (61.6%) made minimal gains and joined Schilling in falling short on their ninth tries. Both face suspicions of performance-enhancing drug use—Clemens has denied using PEDs and Bonds has denied knowingly using PEDs.

Bonds also has been accused of domestic violence and Clemens of maintaining a decade-long relationship with a singer who was 15 when they met.

Schilling, Clemens and Bonds will be joined on next year's ballot by slugers Alex Rodriguez and David Ortiz. Rodriguez was suspended for the 2014 season for violating MLB's PED policy and collective bargaining agreement, and Ortiz's name allegedly appeared on a list of players who tested positive in 2003.

had 19 points, seven rebounds, and five assists.

Mitchell finished with nine points on 3-for-15 shooting.

Austin Rivers scored 25 points for New York—all in the first half. Julius Randle had 18 points and 10 rebounds,

and R.J. Barrett scored 17 in the Knicks' third straight loss.

## Hawks 108, Clippers 99

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 38 points, helping the Hawks stop the Clippers' seven-game winning streak.

The Clippers were without three starters. Leading scorers Kawhi Leonard and Paul George were ruled out due to health and safety protocols. Guard Patrick Beverley missed the game with right knee soreness.

Reggie Jackson led the Clippers with 20 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Serge Ibaka had 15 points.

De'Andre Hunter had 22 points for Atlanta. Clint Capela collected 13 points and 19 rebounds.

# Brown, Bell to play in Super Bowl



**T A M B A BAY**—Either Le'Veon Bell or Antonio Brown will secure a Super Bowl ring next Sunday.

It sounds like both of them will play in the big game as well.

According to ESPN's Dianna Russini, the Kansas City Chiefs running back and Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver are both expected to be healthy for the Feb. 7 game after they missed their respective conference championship games with injuries.

That means the famously disgruntled former Pittsburgh Steelers stars will now face off for football's biggest prize. It marks a height neither managed to reach as members of one of the NFL's most explosive offenses in Pittsburgh.

They've each taken circu-

itous paths to reach this point after forcing their Pittsburgh exits. Bell gave up a full season of his NFL career to secure his free agency in 2019. He got his payday with the New York Jets, but lasted less than two seasons before he was released after Week 5. The Chiefs then signed him as support for first-round rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire.

He's since played a limited role in Kansas City's loaded offense, tallying 353 yards from scrimmage in nine regular-season games. He secured just two carries for six yards in Kansas City's divisional round playoff win over the Cleveland Browns before missing Sunday's AFC championship win over the Buffalo Bills with a knee injury.

Brown's path to this point was—to put it mildly—more

complicated. Here's the short version. He made enough noise in Pittsburgh to prompt a trade to the Oakland Raiders prior to the 2019 season. He didn't make it to Week 1 in Oakland before Jon Gruden grew weary of his antics and released him in training camp.

The New England Patriots signed him in time to suit up for Week 2. He played one game with the Patriots before his former trainer accused him of rape in a civil lawsuit, prompting New England to release him. He didn't play again in 2019. While away from football, Brown ran into more legal trouble, including more allegations of sexual misconduct and an arrest on battery and burglary charges involving the driver of a moving truck.

The NFL suspended him

for the first eight games of the 2020 season for the latter charges. When he became eligible, he signed with the Buccaneers. His brief time in New England had paid off in the form of a relationship with Tom Brady.

His role on a loaded Bucs receiving corps grew as the season wore on. He finished the regular season with 45 catches for 483 yards and four touchdowns in eight games as a key cog in Tampa's offense. He missed Sunday's NFC championship win over the Green Bay Packers with a knee injury suffered in the divisional round against the New Orleans Saints.

Like Bell, he's expected to suit up next Sunday. It will mark an unlikely meeting of the former superstar teammates on football's biggest stage.



# Nadal, Serena support strict COVID-19 protocols



In this Jan. 29, 2020 file photo, Spain's Rafael Nadal makes a backhand return to Austria's Dominic Thiem during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

**MELBOURNE**—Rafael Nadal feels tennis players are privileged to be able to compete at the Australian Open during the COVID-19 pandemic and urged fellow participants to have a wider perspective of the strict health measures in the country.

About 1,200 participants were allowed to fly to Australia for the summer of tennis as thousands of its citizens are unable to return home due to travel restrictions.

Players are serving 14 days of isolation during which they are allowed five hours outside their rooms each day to train for the year's first Grand Slam,

which has been delayed by three weeks and will be played from Feb. 8-21.

But 72 players have been confined to their rooms after passengers on the charter flights that carried them to Australia tested positive to the virus.

Nadal, along with top players like Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams, is isolating in Adelaide and said he felt "very sorry" for those in hard isolation.

"But when we came here we knew that the measures were going to be strict because we knew that the country is doing great with the pandem-

ic," the Spaniard told CNN. "It's normal to complain in some way but on the other hand when you have little bit wider perspective of what's going on ... you see how many are dying around the world."

"You see how many people are losing their father, their mum, without having the chance to say goodbye. It's a real thing, that's what's happening in my country for example. Close people to me are suffering this situation," he added.

Australia has recorded more than 22,000 cases and 909 deaths from the novel coro-

navirus. It had no new local cases for the 10th straight day on Wednesday.

After the 14-day isolation, players will be allowed to train normally and then compete at tune-up events next week.

"The world is suffering in general, so we can't complain," Nadal added. "You have to stay a little more positive. I feel that we are privileged people today, having the chance to keep doing our jobs."

Organizers also received backing from 23-time Grand Slam winner Williams, who has travelled to Australia with three-year-old daughter Olympia.

"It's super, super strict, but it's really good," she said on The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. "It's insane and super intense but it's super good because after that you can have a new normal like we were used to this time last year in the United States."

"It's definitely hard with a three-year-old to be in the hotel all day, but it's worth it because you want everyone to

be safe at the end of the day," she added.

Meanwhile, Australian maverick Nick Kyrgios continues to call out Djokovic for what he considers to be behavior unbecoming of a world No. 1.

In an interview with CNN, Kyrgios drew an unfavorable comparison between Djokovic and the leading exponent of his own favourite sport: basketball. **(NBC)**

## NEW

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or's Office last Tuesday.

Sablan added that a contractor for the project has been selected and right now, they are working on drafting a contract.

"Hopefully, we will get the lights up by August this year," the NMSA official said.

Under the lighting project, two additional concrete poles will be built at the facility, replacing the wooden ones, and the lighting fixtures will use LED lights, which are cost-effective, clearer, and more efficient. Once the project is completed, the track will have four concrete poles.

The much-improved lighting fixture will provide a safer, more convenient, and up to standard venue for competitions, recreational activities, and other community events that utilize the Oleai facility. It will also pro-

vide supplemental lighting to the mayor's office's façade.

The project is very timely, as the CNMI is set to host the Pacific Mini Games next year and the track facility will be the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies besides the medal-rich athletics event.

"We know that the track will be used by our athletes to train and prepare for the Mini Games and other future competitions so we identified the lighting project as one of NMSA's priorities this year," Sablan added.

Besides hosting competitions and training sessions, the track facility has been the "go-to place" for runners/walkers since the COVID-19 pandemic struck and a preferred venue for rugby and frisbee scrimmages. NMSA initially installed additional lights at the facility while waiting for the approval of the grant.

## MRA

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quire funding and MRA members are assisting in finding resources either through federal grants or local resources from businesses and government agencies," the MRA head said.

As for the races, Cepeda said they will focus on local events for now, but international ones are definitely in their plans.

"In the past MRA has invited racers from around the region, including riders from Guam, [the] Philippines, Japan, and New Zealand. We look forward to reviving the international races and reaching out to these areas, as well as Korea and other countries, including the U.S. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the international races may not happen this year. For now, we have a Point Race Season that lasts through July 2021 and the series will give us time to continue fine-tuning our skills in all aspects of putting a race together, not only on the track but throughout our association," said Cepeda, who competes in the Veteran Class races.

The MRA president said that, by holding regular events at CowTown, MRA is able to provide a family festival experience and they hope to keep it

that way.

"Most businesses benefit on race day when families are provided a venue such as CowTown to be out of their homes or [doing] normal routines. We see fans setting up tents filled with traditions of food and beverages for the whole family. Whenever a festival type event occurs on our island, it provides an economic boost throughout the island," Cepeda said.

Meanwhile MRA acknowledged Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the governor's senior policy adviser Robert Hunter, Department of Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo-Concepcion, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph Guerrero for making the re-opening and reconstruction of the racetrack possible. MRA would also like to thank the following for supporting their races: YCO Hardware, 4Ever CNMI, Inas' Kitchen, Mobil Oil, Matson, Joeten Motors, MES, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada and director Mike Borja, DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola and his team, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Sen. Jude Hofshneider (R-Tinian), and Reps. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) and Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan). **(PR)**

## PASSING

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time," Steele said.

"So, we're really thankful to PSS and all the organizers for putting out this event for the students. This is also an opportunity for us, players, to pass on the knowledge we gained from playing volleyball for decades," Steele added.

Mister echoed Steele's sentiments, saying that they are now focused on helping younger players.

"We are truly competitive back in the days and even up to now when we are on the courts. However, though we love to play again, we also want to do more coaching and develop the skills of our young players, especially in the school level," said Mister, who is one of the Marianas High School coaches.

Interestingly, Mister, Steele, and Berline have sons who will all play in the league starting this weekend.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Bruce Berline, standing seventh left, joins fellow coach Mili Saiki, standing center, and Saipan International School players for a group photo before their matches in the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

"That would be fun to watch. It's going to be very competitive for sure," Steele

said, whose son, Richard will be suiting up for MCS 1. Mister has two sons playing for

MHS—Blake and Dylan—while Berline's son, Matthew, is with SIS 2.



# Special Feature

**Editor's Note:** The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



**Together, We Can**  
Public Private Partnership



## MRA: CowTown Raceway will get better

PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN



PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN



PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN



PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN



Since being assigned the Marpi property in October last year to rebuild the old raceway that had been idle for more than a decade, MRA fast-tracked the reconstruction of CowTown, as it worked on a bigger and wider race course and cleared some portion of the property to provide both riders and spectators a great view of the ocean.

"The facility will only get better as we continue to work on the necessary improvements. Since we started riding organized practice, we

**T**he official opening of the CowTown Raceway Park is just the start of better things to come for CNMI motocross and the islands' sports tourism.

Just a few days after formally opening the racetrack to the public, the Marianas Racing Association is already working on future projects that will give the motocross community a better venue for races and other related activities, said MRA president Charles Cepeda, and offer both on-island and off-island visitors a great experience either as guest competitors or spectators.

MRA is one of the 36 groups that have committed to the Public Private Partnership of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers—an initiative whose goals are to transform sites and other key areas in the CNMI to better serve the community, enhance the islands' beauty, and help the economy bounce back from a series of crises.



see improvements every time they come out. The sport is an investment—an opportunity to showcase bikes, gears, and skills. CowTown provides a venue for fans and members, and offer many possibilities for motocross' future in the CNMI. The race this weekend was a huge success for riders

and fans," Cepeda said.

Among the improvements that MRA needs to address are parking and areas for spectators, and the public announcement system.

Cepeda said the parking and areas for spectators need to be expanded so that fans can see the whole track during races.

"Another area we are looking to improve is the public announcement system for the fans to hear what is happening on the track and also for members to improve their understanding of the rules for each race. Improvement on the track, the pits, and other areas of the CowTown would re-

PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN



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PHOTO By JOSEPH CHIN





Wall scores  
24 to lead  
Rockets over  
Wizards

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## PLAYERS-TURNED-COACHES

# ‘Passing on the knowledge’

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Seasoned volleyball players Tyce Mister, Bruce Berline, and Randy Steele haven’t lost the competitive drive in them, but behind that aggressive approach in games is the desire to pass on decades of knowledge and skills in their sport.

“There’s no way we’re going to lose to a Berline-coached team,” said Steele when asked about their involvement in the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League that kicked off last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.



Steele and Berline used to compete with and against each other in volleyball tournaments, especially at the height of the Marianas Cup, and in locally organized events. Last weekend, they crossed paths anew, this time as coaches, and the competitive nature of their relationship will continue in the next five weekends. Steele coaches one of the Mt. Carmel School teams (one each in boys and girls divisions), while Berline is helping Mili Saiki call the shots for Saipan

International School. “I will crash this guy,” Berline said. Seriously, we love to compete against each other, but at this time, it’s our teams’ show now. We are just so excited for them, to see them play outside and work together. There’s so much energy in this tournament.”

The interscholastic tournament is the first this season and also the first volleyball event organized since the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March last year.

“It was hard for us grown-ups to deal with the lack of activities and the restrictions in place at the onset of the pandemic, so imagine how harder it was for our kids to suddenly stop what they love to do and miss these things for a long

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tyce Mister gives instruction to Marianas High School 4 players before their game in the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

## New lighting fixtures to be put up at Oleai track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

New lighting fixtures will be installed at the Oleai Sports Complex’s track oval this year.

A Community Development Block Grant amounting to \$350,000 has been awarded



ed through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to Northern Marianas

Sports Association, which is the caretaker of the facility. The Saipan Mayor’s Office initiated the application of the grant for the lighting project, having shared the same location as the track and field facility.

“We are very grateful to the Saipan Mayor’s Office for their initiative on this project,” NMSA executive director Carline Sablan said during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee meeting held at the May-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The wooden poles at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility will be replaced with concrete ones.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Randy Steele gestures to Mt. Carmel School players during a break in their game against Grace Christian Academy.